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# Macalester Today November 1997

Macalester College

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# Macalester Today

A full-page photograph of Laurie Brown '87, an environmentalist, smiling and standing with her hands on her hips. She is wearing a dark blue blazer over a white button-down shirt and light-colored trousers. The background is a lush green pond with lily pads and trees in the distance.

November 1997

## Community Activists

Environmentalist

Laurie Brown '87

and other alumni are  
making a difference



**M**ACALESTER TODAY welcomes letters from alumni, the primary audience of this magazine, as well as other members of the Macalester community. Exceptions are letters that personally malign an individual or are not related to issues at Macalester or contents of the magazine.

Please send letters intended for publication to Letters to the Editor, Macalester Today, College Relations, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105-1899. You can also send your letter by fax: (612) 696-6192. Or by e-mail: [mactoday@macalester.edu](mailto:mactoday@macalester.edu). We reserve the right to edit letters for conciseness and clarity.

## Chuck Green

AS A former student of political science Professor Chuck Green, I noted with interest in your August issue that Macalester finally gave him a Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award.

Chuck is as responsible as anyone for me getting a Ph.D. in political science (Princeton, 1981) and going on to a satisfying teaching career (State University of New York at Albany). Indeed, what is most extraordinary about Chuck's career is how many of his students have earned Ph.D.s in political science and gone on to distinguished careers in teaching and research. I venture to say that he is one of the top undergraduate teachers in the country in this regard.

In the interest of full disclosure, however, we should note that Chuck had a devious, and I think highly calculated, method for "seducing" students into political science: Basically, he listened to them and encouraged them to think on their own! This was heady stuff for me as an undergraduate; I couldn't resist. Ironically, Chuck was extraordinarily influential on me even though we disagreed, and probably still do, on our basic approach to political research.

Macalester should put a warning label on Chuck's courses: Course attendance may result in habit-forming attachment to critical and creative thinking that could last a lifetime!

Todd Swanstrom '70  
Albany, N.Y.

## Borghild Sundheim

GOOD article on Dr. Borghild Sundheim [August Macalester Today], my adviser. I got to France!

Eleanor Watts Montgomery '55  
Minneapolis

THE BEAUTIFULLY written and perceptive tribute to my wonderful French professor, Dr. Borghild Sundheim, brought back a flood of memories of good friends and fine teachers whom I had the privi-

Japanese Christian. The book was published to good reviews in 1941 and went into five printings.

In addition to seven books of fiction and non-fiction, I've sold numerous short stories, articles, plays and poems, taught many courses in writing for publication, and at present conduct workshops for advanced writers and do a lot of private editing.

I give grateful credit for my modest but very rewarding literary career to my dedicated teachers at Macalester. I received a truly liberal education in every sense of the word. My gratitude has been renewed for Borghild Sundheim, who introduced me to French literature, and for the generous encouragement of that spiritually minded man, Dr. Clark. Those who haven't read his inspiring autobiography, *A Man's Reach*, should do so. I also recommend to aspiring writers his fine textbook, *The Technique of the Short Story*.

I look forward to reading more profiles of memorable Mac teachers by Rebecca Gonzalez-Campoy '83.

Maxine Schroer Shore '34  
Carmel, Calif.



Chuck Green, right, with history Professor Jim Stewart in the early 1970s

lege of knowing and learning from during my four rewarding years at Macalester.

Miss Sundheim, or "Sunny" as she was known to friends, was indeed a helpful mentor and good friend to her many French students. French was my major, along with English, and I kept in touch with her until her passing in 1968.

Another major influence during my Macalester days was Dr. Glenn Clark, who not only taught me the basics of creative writing but, after I was graduated, recommended me to Harper's, his New York publisher, as an editor of *Behold the Man* by Toyohiko Kagawa, the then-prominent

## Roger Blakely

THE ARTICLES and letters following the passing of Professor Roger Blakely can only touch on the impact of this esteemed Renaissance man on me and my fellow Macites.

I count my decision to go to Mac one of the best of my life, and the triumvirate of Roger Blakely, Dale Warland and Donald Betts was one of the greatest parts of that experience. For a young man searching for identity and direction, these three demonstrated

that the worlds of cultural history, artistic performance, contemporary exploration and human values could be joined successfully; in fact, all three practiced this marriage in a visible way.

In particular, my thanks to RB for taking this music student seriously, helping me to recognize my own talents, and showing me that there was a world of integration of arts and letters in the grandest sense. I can still thank Professors Warland and Betts personally.

Lee Kesselman '74  
Wheaton, Ill.



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Restore the Earth, on Hennepin Avenue. See pages 21-32.

## On the cover

Greg Helgeson photographed environmental activist Laurie Brown '87 by Lake of the Isles, which the Minneapolis Park Board is restoring to its original condition. The lake is a few blocks from Brown's former business,

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PRESIDENT McPherson names special assistant for diversity and community; new alumni director appointed; racist incident shocks campus; a day for Walt Mink; and other Macalester news.



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PROFESSOR Galo F. González reflects on mirrors and identity.



## New position

*President McPherson names special assistant for diversity and community*

PRESIDENT McPherson named Roberto Ifill, a former Connecticut College administrator, to the newly created job of special assistant to the president for diversity and campus community.

Ifill will provide leadership and coordinate campus-wide efforts on issues of diversity, multiculturalism and community-building. He began his duties in August.



Roberto Ifill

"Macalester is distinctive among liberal arts colleges in making multiculturalism one of the pillars of its educational mission. It has a unique opportunity to be an exemplar for other institutions, and I look forward to assisting in that effort," said Ifill.

McPherson created the position last spring. In addition to reporting directly to the president, Ifill will work closely with faculty and staff on affirmative action as well as recruitment and retention issues across campus. This fall, he joined McPherson and other administrators, as well as many students and faculty, in dealing with a racist incident on campus (see page 3).

"My goal in creating this position was to bring greater focus in efforts toward campus diversity. I am confident that Bert Ifill will do a terrific job of helping us move forward on our diversity agenda while strengthening and enriching our community's sense of common purpose," said McPherson.

Ifill comes to Macalester with a broad range of experience in administrative, planning and leadership positions in higher education. He was the associate dean and assistant to the president of Connecticut College. During his tenure, he also served on the Dean's Task Force on Intercultural Understanding and chaired the search committee for the director of the college's multicultural cen-

ter. Before that, he was a program officer in higher education and public affairs for the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and was a predoctoral fellow at the Brookings Institution.

In addition, Ifill taught economics at Williams College before serving as an assistant dean and dean of freshmen. He was also an adviser to the Williams chapter of Students Organized Against Racism, a multiracial student organization of 30 colleges in the Northeast.

Trained as an economist, Ifill specializes in the economics of nonprofit organizations. He has also taught courses examining the economic condition of African Americans since slavery. He plans to teach a similar course at Macalester. He is a graduate of Dartmouth and earned a Ph.D. in economics from Yale.

## Alumni director

*Lawrence alumni leader succeeds Karen McConkey*

ELIZABETH S. Rammer, former president of the Lawrence University Alumni Board of Directors and an active volunteer in many areas of the university's alumni program since graduating from Lawrence in 1984, is Macalester's new alumni director.

Rammer succeeds Karen McConkey, who stepped down in July after 11 years at Macalester.

"Liz" Rammer, who joined the Macalester staff Oct. 29, has 13 years of experience in advertising and marketing communications. She comes to Macalester from Martin/Williams Advertising in Minneapolis, where she has been an account supervisor since 1992. She previously worked for Campbell Mithun Esty Advertising in Minneapolis and Viewfacts, Inc., in Chicago.

An English major at Lawrence, which is located in Appleton, Wis., Rammer earned a master's degree in advertising from Northwestern University in 1988.

"We are delighted to have Liz join the Macalester staff in the key position of alumni director," said Richard Ammons, vice president for college advancement. "She has both the engaging, enthusiastic personality and the background with a small liberal arts college that the job calls for. We know Liz will enjoy meeting

Macalester alumni and we are confident they will enjoy getting to know her."

Alan Naylor '57, president of Macalester's Alumni Association, said he met Rammer "during the search process and was very impressed with her comprehension of the role, her own alumni board experiences, and her overall enthusiasm and high energy level. I think she'll be terrific."

At Lawrence, Rammer has been a devoted volunteer for the university's admissions office, alumni weekend, phonathon and for her 10th reunion committee. She joined the Lawrence Alumni Board in 1992, becoming its president in 1995. She provided leadership and vision for the 34-member board, worked closely with the director and assistant director of alumni relations to develop board projects for Lawrence students and alumni, and coordinated efforts with the university president, vice president and board of trustees to ensure that goals and objectives are in concert to benefit the college.

Rammer and her husband, John, enjoy downhill skiing, golfing and fishing together.

## Reader's Digest stock

PRESIDENT McPherson says "this is going to be a cold shower, but it's not going to be a blood bath."

He repeated that comment to the *New York Times* after the decision by the Reader's Digest Association's Board of Directors to cut the company's quarterly dividend, a move which has implications for Macalester.

In July, the RDA's board of directors announced a decision to cut the company's quarterly dividend in half from 45 cents to 22.5 cents per share, or on an annual basis from \$1.80 to 90 cents per share. Since the DeWitt Wallace Fund for Macalester owns about 6 million shares of RDA, the income of which flows directly to the college, the cut would amount on an annual basis to a reduction of roughly \$5.5 million in income.

McPherson, in a memo to faculty and staff last summer, said the dividend cut came as no surprise since the Digest had previously announced a decline in its current and projected earnings. "The college has consistently managed its budgeting and financial planning with an eye to the vulnerabilities created by our substantial reliance on the dividends from a single stock," he noted.

McPherson said that "the implications of the dividend cut for Macalester depend on how long it is sustained. . . . While this



Liz Rammer



dividend cut implies a significant loss in income, especially if it is long sustained, the college remains financially strong. We must not, and we will not, allow this adverse development to derail the remarkable progress our college is making as an educational institution — progress that has never depended solely on our endowment.”

## Racist incident

*Campus comes together to denounce a 'hateful and cowardly act' in Dupre Hall*

MORE THAN 450 students, faculty and staff filled Weyerhaeuser Chapel Sept. 29 to express their anger and concern over a racist hate message written on the door of

an African American student living in Dupre Hall.

Many others staged a campus vigil the night of Oct. 1 to express their outrage over the incident and their support for students of color.

The student, Charlotte Smith '00 (Atlanta), found the message on her door Sept. 20 when she returned to her room in Dupre Hall. It read: “We [obscenity] hate

DON HAMERMAN

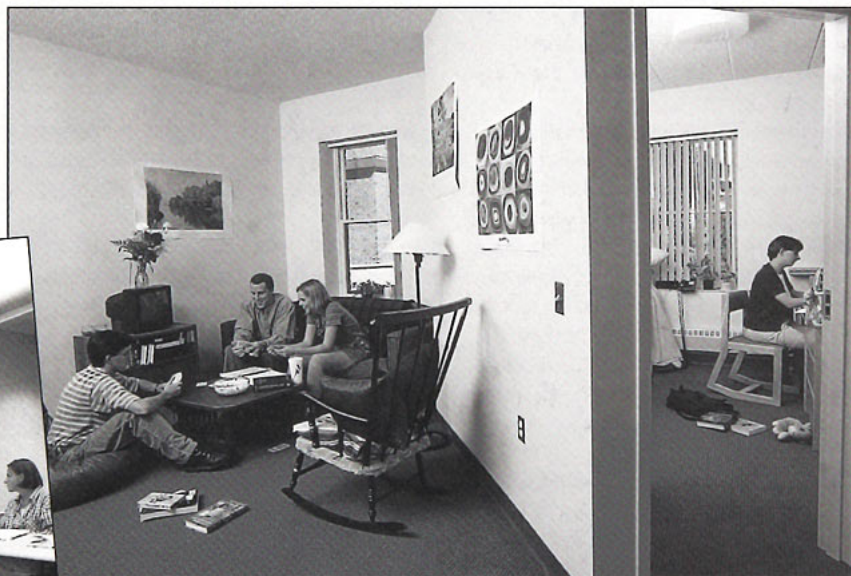
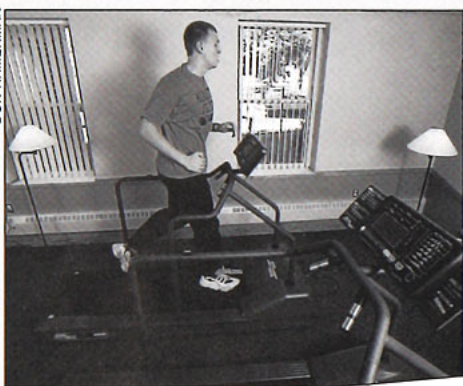


## New residence hall

Macalester's new residence hall opened in September. Located on Cambridge Street, next to Alumni House, the \$5.9 million hall is home to 113 juniors and seniors. Designed by students, faculty and staff, the three-story, triangular-shaped residence hall is intended to have a strong academic focus and support student-faculty interaction. Its distinctive features include seminar rooms (*bottom left*) for junior/senior seminars and selected first-year courses; a “wellness” facility (*left*) which will eventually support a range of exercise equipment and health-oriented programs; common kitchen/family room space and laundry facilities; and a basement level with rooms for music

practice, storage and mechanical equipment. Ruth Stricker-Dayton '57, a nationally recognized authority on fitness, and her husband, Bruce Dayton, donated \$1.5 million for the wellness facility, which is named after her. The residence hall itself is still unnamed. *Below:* a student suite.

DON HAMERMAN



DON HAMERMAN

GREG HELGESON

February's *Macalester Today* will publish photos of the completed renovation of Olin and Rice Halls of Science



you to death, Charlotte. Love, kisses, the KKK." Next to the message, her poster of golfer Tiger Woods also was defaced with "KKK" scrawled across it.

As this issue of *Macalester Today* was going to press, no suspect had been identified.

In a letter to all faculty, students and staff urging them to attend the special Weyerhaeuser Chapel meeting, President McPherson said he shared the victim's "outrage at this hateful and cowardly act," adding: "The first thing we should realize is that this incident is not simply a gross insult perpetrated on one individual. It happened on *our* campus, so it insults each of us. I hope you will join me in expressing our sorrow, anger and support, and in doing whatever we can to ensure that such an incident does not recur on our campus." See page 11.

Speakers at the chapel meeting included McPherson, Provost Wayne Roberts, communication studies Professor Sally Caudill, students Ann Hyslop '00 (Houston, Texas) and Kwame Willingham '99 (Williamstown, Mass.), and Bert Ifill, President McPherson's special assistant for diversity and campus community (see page 2).

Hyslop, the resident assistant on the Dupre floor where the incident occurred, said students on her floor, angry and shaken, decided to paint a mural on a bed sheet and display it to "lock out hate and bring in love."

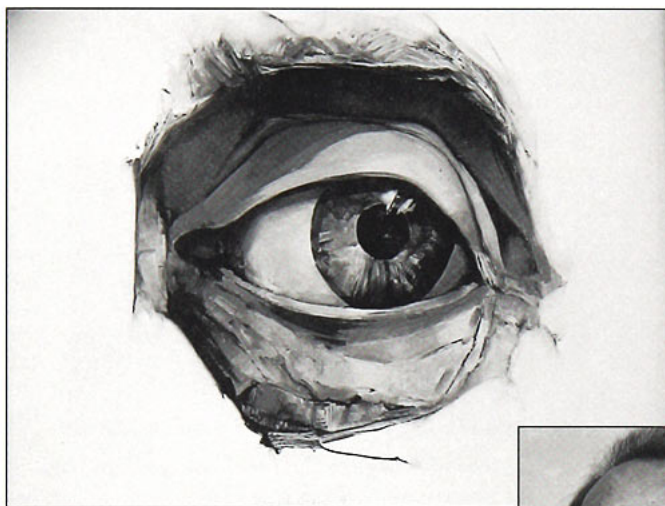
Willingham, treasurer of the campus Black Liberation Affairs Committee, spoke of how any racist incident inevitably arouses suspicion and fear. "Because of the letters KKK, we think it is someone from the white community," he said. "I became very suspicious of people, which is not fair at all. . . . I say to myself, 'This person couldn't be the one. I eat breakfast with him, I play basketball with him.' But then the question comes, 'How do I know that?'"

Ifill noted how just one incident could disrupt the lives of many people on campus, especially people of color, and distract them from their regular tasks. He urged students to form small groups where they were sitting to share feelings and information. Many did so, and some stayed for more than an hour after the convocation formally ended.

Macalester's Board of Trustees joined the campus community in condemning

"this hateful act toward another person and the cowardice of its anonymity. Such bigoted and hurtful acts have no place at Macalester and will not be tolerated," the board said in a resolution.

The trustees said they strongly support President McPherson and Ifill in creating an ad hoc committee of students, faculty, staff, alumni and trustees "to initiate and monitor institutional efforts to ensure diversity and multiculturalism at Macalester and throughout the larger community."



Professor Jerry Rudquist's self-portrait of his eye

## Pupil's portrait

Mike Hazard '74 pays homage to art Professor Jerry Rudquist

MIKE Hazard '74 has paid tribute to a cherished professor, Jerry Rudquist, in the best way he knows how: by making a video.

Hazard's 5-minute work, "The Painted Eye: Jerry Rudquist," premiered this fall on Twin Cities public TV station KTCA-Channel 2. It was also shown in conjunction with an exhibition of Rudquist's paintings at St. Olaf College's Steensland Art Museum in Northfield, Minn.

Filmed at Macalester in May, the video shows the longtime Macalester art professor creating a painting of his own deeply set, well-lined eye.

"We share a whimsical sense of humor," Hazard, a St. Paul-based television producer and teacher, says of Rudquist. Rudquist served as one of the two advisers — the other was English Professor Alvin Greenberg — for Hazard's individually designed major in art and English.

Hazard says "The Painted Eye" can be seen in a variety of ways: as a pupil's

homage to his professor; a meditation on self-portraits, with a "slide show" of Rudquist's favorite self-portraits by 18 artists; as a memento mori of their late friend, the painter Greg Kelsey '73, who died of a heart attack in 1991; as a labor of love.

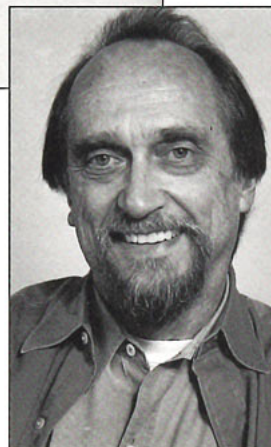
"He's a wonderful man in addition to being a really, really fine painter," Hazard says. "In a way, the video is revealing Jerry's vision through what he likes. The whole piece is meant to be seen through the painter's eye."

Hazard and his wife, Patricia Olson '73, who did the design for the video and recently joined the art department faculty at the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, have their own graphic design company, Cat's Pajamas. Hazard also runs his own nonprofit company, The Center for International Education, through which he produces television programs about artists. He is currently working

on a portrait of Eugene McCarthy, the poet and former U.S. senator.

The video of Rudquist is available free of charge: call Hazard at (612) 227-2240.

Asked what he thought of the video, Rudquist said he was pleased and honored, adding: "I wondered why those guys were following me around."



## Alumni trustees

SHELLEY Carthen Watson '82 of Shoreview, Minn., and Bruce L. Soltis '66 of New Orleans have been elected to the Macalester Board of Trustees.

Carthen Watson is an attorney and executive director of the Hennepin County Bar Association. A former member of Macalester's Alumni Board, she is also a board member of Planned Parenthood of Minnesota, a member of the Twin Cities Committee on Minority Lawyers and a fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

Soltis is president and CEO of Arrow-Sysco, a wholesale distributor of frozen,



# Fifty years later, these teammates are still the champs

The 1947 Macalester football team which won the MIAC championship held its 50th reunion celebration on campus Sept. 26. That team, which claimed Macalester's last football title, went 5-0-1 while giving up just 12 points all season, tying St. Thomas with a 4-0 conference record.

Team members pictured at Alumni House (which was President Charles Turck's home in 1947) are, from left: trainer Doc Watson '42 (Inver Grove Heights, Minn.), assistant coach Bill Kunze '37 (St. Paul), co-captain Whitey Helling '48 (Englewood, Fla.), Bob Engwer '51 (Maplewood, Minn.), Bob Rygg '50 (San Diego, Calif.), Norm Trout '48 (Littleton, Colo.), Gordy Ashby '50 (Mesa, Ariz.), Earl Bowman '50 (Minneapolis), Felix Crepeau '49 (White Bear Lake, Minn.), Bob Stark '49 (Miltona, Minn.), Steve Hicks '50 (Pipestone, Minn.) and Bob Sjostrand '49 (Wheaton, Ill.).

Also attending but not present for the photo were assistant coach Milton Jahn '41 (St. Paul), Al Wetterlin '51 (Savage, Minn.) and Ron Wiesner '51 (Edina, Minn.). Special guests included Nancy Stuessy Partridge, widow of coach Dwight Stuessy, and longtime college nurse Dorothy Jacobson. The original team photo (top) was taken by Doc Watson, who became Macalester's longtime physician.



Scot halfback Earl Bowman, far left, picks up 10 yards against St. Olaf in the final game of the 1947 season. The Scots defeated favored St. Olaf 14-6 on a snowy, frigid day. In addition to Bowman, six other Scots were named All-State: fullback Whitey Helling, quarterback Bob Engwer, tackle Bob Stark, guard Don Rafferty, and ends George Hicks and Felix Crepeau.

## That championship season

Mac 0, Carleton 0  
Mac 6, Hamline 0  
Mac 31, Jamestown 0  
Mac 7, St. Mary's 0  
Mac 14, Concordia 6  
Mac 14, St. Olaf 6



canned and dry foods. He is a board member of Father Flanagan's Boys' Town of New Orleans.

## Class of 2001

*The Mac odyssey begins for 454 remarkable individuals*

"SARAH!"

"Benjamin!"

Shout those names at Macalester and you'll draw a crowd.

The Class of 2001 alone includes 17 Sarahs, the most popular name among women, and 12 Katherines. Nine men are named Benjamin, followed by eight each named Andrew, Christopher and John.

Collectively, the entering class has met President Clinton, Mother Theresa and Michael Jordan; plays 30 different musical instruments; written three novels;

recorded 75 hours of Grateful Dead tapes; made a guest appearance on a TV cooking show; graduated from a senior class of 835 students (Dobson High School in Mesa, Ariz.) and just 7 students (Chester-Hubbell-Bryan High School in Nebraska).

Other characteristics of the first-year class:

- **Number:** 454 (254 women, 200 men); 3,138 applications, highest total ever

- **Regional distribution by high school:**

- 26% Minnesota
- 22% other Midwest
- 17% New England/Mid-Atlantic
- 10% Far West and Hawaii
- 7% Southwest/Rockies
- 4% South
- 14% outside U.S., highest figure ever

- **Largest school delegations:** 7 students each from Berkeley (Calif.) High, West High in Madison, Wis., and Red Cross Nordic United World College in Norway

- **Nations represented (by citizenship):** 40

- **Students of color:** 53, plus 5 transfer students, or 12% of new students

- **Children of alumni:** 11; 5 with a grandparent who attended Macalester; 25 who are following one or more siblings to Mac

- **Academic distinctions:**

- 37 National Merit Scholars
- 44 ranked 1st or 2nd in class

- **Extracurricular distinctions:**

- 93 athletic team captains
- 39 publication editors-in-chief

## Quotable Quotes

HERE are some of the noteworthy comments made recently on and around the campus:

"I HAVE always been fascinated by the people, and in particular, the variety of people that make up a city. To me, there are as many St. Pauls as there are types of people living in the city. For a new immigrant from Mexico, St. Paul may be filled with promise and energy, while to a stable, long-term homeowner, the city may seem to be sinking into violence and anarchy. Both views may be formed by valid facts..."

*State Rep. Carlos Mariani '79 of St. Paul, quoted in a Sept. 15 Minneapolis Star Tribune article which asked residents and civic leaders the question, "How healthy is St. Paul?" The article also quoted Kathleen Osborne Vellenga '59, project coordinator for the St. Paul/Ramsey County Children's Initiative, and former St. Paul Mayor George Latimer, now a visiting professor of urban studies at Macalester.*

"ONE of the things I really like is that students here are not concerned with looking cool. These are students who do not want to just do well. They want to make a difference."

*President Mike McPherson, quoted in a Sept. 28 profile of him in the St. Paul Pioneer Press*

"MIKE wants to make Macalester more beloved by the alumni so they feel it's still their school. He wants us to be more involved in the community... It's easy to follow a leader who has a reputation for excellence."

*Macalester geography Professor David Lanegran, a 1962 alumnus, quoted in the same Pioneer Press article*



Charles Osgood of CBS, a Macalester parent, speaks to Macalester's opening convocation, right, and with students in Professor Adrienne Christiansen's communication studies class earlier in the same day, above.

"THE 1960s was a great moral event in American history. It looked like we were turning the corner, like we were growing up and going to face racism. You felt a sense of being moral and right, that what you were doing was not going against American ideals. I was one of those people who thought, 'Oh, this will be over by the time I'm 40.' I'm 60 now. Those were naive ideals."

*Mahmoud El-Kati, a lecturer in history at Macalester who has been teaching black history in Minnesota since the 1960s. He was quoted in a July 20 Minneapolis Star Tribune article on the 30th anniversary of a race riot in Minneapolis.*



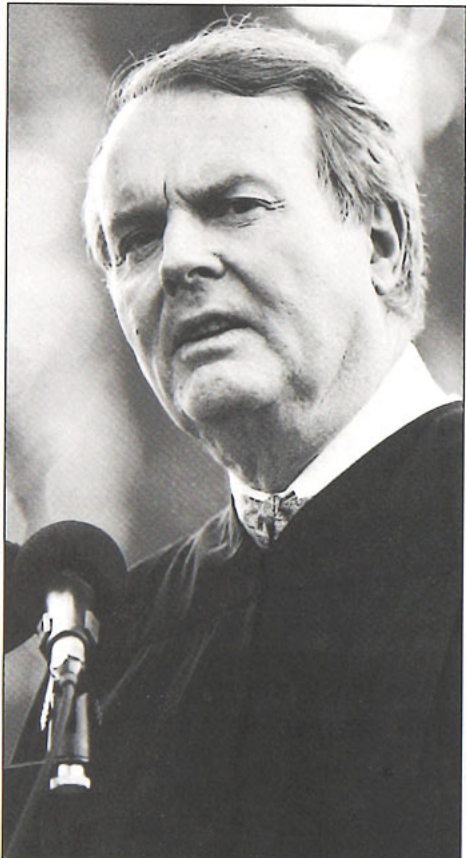
- 22 Girls or Boys State representatives
- 22 speech/debate captains
- 21 student body presidents or vice presidents
- 17 all-state musicians
- 10 theater group presidents
- **Community service:** founded 7 service organizations and headed 32 others

Dean of Admissions Bill Shain compiled these and other statistics about the entering class. But he told new students in his welcoming remarks in September that "many of the qualities which all of us cherish most can rarely if ever be quantified: curiosity, courage, enthusiasm for learning and for living, humility, and loyalty to friends, ideals and institutions."

"MY COLLEAGUE Dan Rather and his counterparts at the other networks, Tom Brokaw at NBC and Peter Jennings at ABC, are all in Calcutta at this moment. They will be there tomorrow to report on the funeral of Mother Theresa. ... [The] network news would normally have covered Mother Theresa's passing with a couple of minutes on the evening news and little more, were it not for the fact that Rather, Brokaw and Jennings were all in London last week for the funeral of Princess Diana.

"So overwhelming was the public reaction to her sudden death, not only in Britain but here and other parts of the world, that a story was covered as if it were of monumental significance to humanity. Having paid so much extravagant attention to Diana in what amounted to a virtual canonization of the princess, it would have seemed wrong not to acknowledge with more than passing reference Mother Theresa."

**Charles Osgood**, anchor of CBS News' "Sunday Morning" program and anchor and writer of "The Osgood File" on CBS Radio, in his remarks to Macalester's opening convocation of the academic year Sept. 12 •



GREG HELGESON

## Music making

*White and black choral groups join with a Macalester professor to learn from each other*

MACALESTER music Professor Robert L. Morris is helping to bridge two cultures and two musical traditions in a project called, logically enough, "Bridges."

Funded by the Honeywell Foundation, the two-year project brings together the 200-voice, predominantly white Minnesota Chorale, a community choir which performs the standard literature of Western Europe, with Morris' own 30-voice Leigh Morris Chorale, a largely black ensemble that specializes in the choral music of African Americans.

The two chorales are being joined by singers from one white and three black churches in the Twin Cities.

"The whole project is about understanding and cultural awareness," says Morris. "We're not just rehearsing for performances; in fact, the performance aspects of it are not the most important thing. We are going to have performances, but they're going to be built around [different] traditions, so that all of us, as Americans, can see how we have certain things in common and learn to appreciate those things that we don't know about."

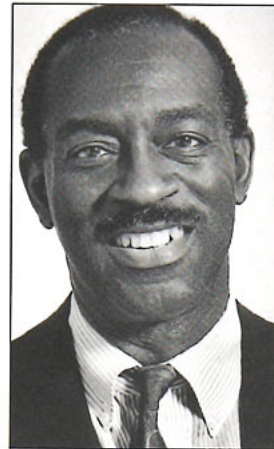
The idea for "Bridges" came from a black member of the Minnesota Chorale. Morris officially opened the project with a lecture and demonstration Sept. 15 at the College of St. Catherine. On Nov. 1, one united choir from both chorales sang music from both traditions at First Baptist Church in Minneapolis, a

largely white church. "We talk about the music and then sing it," Morris said, "so it's participatory. The idea is not to have a perfectly executed performance; the emphasis is on the participation of people doing it."

As an outgrowth of the Bridges collaboration, the Minnesota Chorale and Leigh Morris Chorale have been invited to perform at a concert version of "Porgy and Bess" next June with the St. Paul

Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Bobby McFerrin.

"The year after that, we're thinking of doing a work called 'God's Trombones,'" Morris said. "The words are well known to the black community and the music should be well known to everybody, but especially to Euro-Americans. So this is a good work to do."



Robert Morris

## New faculty

*Four fill tenure-track positions in English, geology and political science departments*

FOUR new tenure-track faculty joined Macalester this fall. They are:

- Roy Kay, English Department. Ph.D., University of Geneva, Switzerland, 1996; M.A., Boston University, 1985; B.A., Hamline University, 1982. Kay studied for six years at the University of Geneva to benefit from opportunities to learn from such renowned literary theorists as Wlad Godzich, Paul Bove and Jonathan Culler. He is teaching both introductory and advanced courses in literary theory as well as courses in African American literature. Many of Kay's courses will enhance the available curricula for the new African



Roy Kay



American studies minor which has just been introduced at Macalester.

- Raymond R. Rogers, Geology. Ph.D., University of Chicago, 1995; M.S., University of Montana, 1989; B.S., Northern Arizona University, 1985. Rogers comes to Macalester from Cornell College. He has worked throughout the world on dinosaur evolution as well as foreland basin sedimentation. Rogers is teaching courses in historical geology, paleontology, sedimentation and stratigraphy, and evolution.

- Andrew A. Latham, Political Science. Ph.D., York University, Canada, 1997;



Andrew Latham

was graduate research associate at the York Centre for International and Strategic Studies. This academic year he is teaching international relations, international conflict and resolution, foreign policy and a research seminar in international politics.

- Juliet A. Williams, Political Science. Ph.D., Cornell University, 1997; M.A., Cornell, 1994; B.A., Harvard, 1990. Her published work and professional papers have focused on liberal political theory, constitutional law and feminism. At Cornell, she served as a teaching assistant, instructor and guest lecturer, and was one of four graduate students in the university to receive the Clark Award for



Raymond Rogers

distinguished teaching. This academic year she is teaching foundations of U.S. politics, U.S. constitutional law and thought, U.S. rights and civil liberties, and a research seminar on law and theory.

## Schwartz wins award

CHEMISTRY Professor Truman Schwartz received the 1997 James Flack Norris Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Teaching of Chemistry from the Northeastern Section of the American Chemical Society.

Schwartz was honored this month in a ceremony at MIT.

Schwartz is the senior author of *Chemistry in Context*, an innovative college chemistry text for nonscience majors which recently went into its second edition.

## U.S. News gets clues

*Its list of top 25 colleges now includes Macalester*

FOR the first time, *U.S. News and World Report* confirmed what Macalester alumni have known for decades: Macalester is one of the 25 best national liberal arts colleges.

The college tied with Holy Cross for 25th overall among 159 national colleges in the magazine's annual rankings. Macalester ranked 32nd last year. But *U.S. News* emphasizes that because of changes in methodology, the rankings are not directly comparable to last year's.

In addition, Macalester placed fifth among national liberal arts colleges in the

magazine's "Best Values-Discount Prices" category, which ranks schools where students can get a high-quality education at a reasonable cost. These rankings measure the cost of attending the college against its quality.

In another category, Macalester came in seventh among national lib-



Juliet Williams

eral arts colleges in the proportion of international students enrolled. During the 1996-97 academic year, about 10 per-

## Faculty Notes

### Chemistry and Physics & Astronomy

**Editors' note:** This new department of Mac Today features brief updates about faculty members. The English Department faculty were featured in the August issue.

### Physics & Astronomy Department

THE DEPARTMENT will celebrate its new Olin-Rice facilities with two Edward Strait Memorial Lectures on March 9 and 16. There will also be a dedication ceremony for the new observatory and astronomy laboratory sometime next spring after the new telescope is installed.

James Doyle, who joined the department in 1992, has had a paper accepted for publication in the *Journal of Applied Physics* entitled "Chemical kinetics in low pressure acetylene radio frequency glow discharges." He planned to attend the National Meeting of the American Vacuum Society last month, presenting two posters and co-authoring a third. This semester he has introduced a new course, "Digital Electronics," into the Physics curriculum.

James Heyman, who earned his Ph.D. in 1992 from California-Berkeley, joined the department in 1994. He teaches at the introductory and advanced levels, with an emphasis on electromagnetism and optics. He carries on research in experimental semiconductor physics and laser spectroscopy.

Sung Kyu Kim continues to teach "Contemporary Concepts of Physics" with an annual enrollment of about 150 students. "Recently I have added a separate section for 16 first-year students as a part of the First-Year Course Program. Every summer I run a Summer Physics Institute for premed students. This institute draws students from all over the country. A couple of recent topics courses were: 'Big Bang Cosmology' with Professor David Schramm of the University of Chicago, and 'Recent Advances in Cosmology' with Professor Schramm and Professors Olive and Skillman of the University of Minnesota. Professor



Schramm and I are currently collaborating on a textbook, *Big Bang Physics*."

Ray Mikkelsen is serving as the department chair. He currently focuses his professional activities on teaching, studying various issues in modern optics and quantum mechanics, and tending to day-to-day department operations. His off-campus interests are playing tennis, improving his golf, reading novels and enjoying two grandchildren.

Sherman W. Schultz, Jr., instructor emeritus since 1995, is "now in my 43rd year of Macalester association. While not teaching astronomy any more, my interest in the subject centers about the construction of a second and larger observatory on my son's farm home south of Mankato, Minn. Named in deference to its location on the farm, the Alfalfa Centauri Observatory, it uses the telescopes from the former Macalester Observatory. Son David and his wife are in the school system and the use of the new facility will include astronomy classes within the system. I would like to hear from past telescope makers in the January Interim term. Address me through the regular mails at Macalester College."

Kim Venn, who joined the faculty in 1996 and is the recipient of a Clare Boothe Luce Professorship, reports that a new, custom-built telescope will be delivered to the new Macalester Observatory in March 1998. Funding has been provided in part from National Science Foundation funds and Macalester. The telescope will be equipped with equally modern and new equipment for student-based astrophysical research projects.

## Chemistry Department

Janet Carlson is the director of the newest program on campus, the Comparative North American Studies Program, which is designed to allow students to study (1) race as a topic in and of itself and (2) the intellectual and cultural contributions and experiences of people of color in North America. In recent years she has been teaching "Instrumental Analysis" with Tom

Varberg, a general chemistry lab, and a course in Asian American studies. This year she is the chemistry seminar coordinator.

Rebecca Hoye joined the department in 1995 as an organic chemist. She has an undergraduate degree from Bucknell University and a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. Her main interests lie in natural products chemistry and synthetic organic chemistry. She has taught introductory organic chemistry, advanced organic chemistry, research methods in organic chemistry and organometallic chemistry. Her research group is currently investigating the synthesis of elenic acid, a marine metabolite with interesting biological activity. Five undergraduate students participated in the project this past summer.

Kathleen Parson '67 has held the position of academic dean since 1995. She is currently campus representative and serves on the executive committee of ChemLinks, a coalition of 15 colleges and universities funded by a five-year, \$2.7 million National Science Foundation grant to develop innovative chemistry curricular modules. She is consultant to the Biosciences Laboratories at 3M, where a number of her students have participated in summer research internships, and has co-authored many student presentations at biology and chemistry undergraduate symposia.

Truman Schwartz is the senior author of *Chemistry in Context*, an innovative college chemistry text for nonscience majors. The book, which recently appeared in its second edition, and other issues in American undergraduate chemistry education were topics of invited lectures that he gave at four Russian universities this past June. This month (November), Schwartz was presented with the James Flack Norris Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Teaching of Chemistry at a meeting of the Northeastern

Section of the American Chemical Society at MIT.

Emil Slowinski, professor emeritus since 1988, comes to campus most days, due in large part to his having an office in the department. He uses his computer for e-mail and Excel (also Tetris and GO), plays doubles tennis, often with Fred Stocker as his partner, gives the occasional lecture and bends ears when he gets a chance. He continues to revise the lab manual with Wayne Wolsey and got out the sixth edition in 1996. He always enjoys hearing from former students and promises to reply.

Fred Stocker, now retired for one year, continues to come into his office and laboratory and do research and writing. He is still publishing articles on Cu(I) complexes and has succeeded recently in preparing a series of new complexes of silver with thiourea type ligands. He finds time for playing a lot of tennis and golf and spends time each winter in San Diego visiting his grandchildren.

Tom Varberg joined the department in 1993 as a physical chemist. He has degrees from Hamline and MIT and completed post-doctoral appointments at NIST and Oxford University. Besides teaching general, analytical and physical chemistry, he keeps himself busy by studying the spectroscopy of gas-phase free radicals, collaborating with other scientists and mathematicians at Macalester, and chasing his two young sons at home with his wife, Michelle. He recently co-authored a series of mathematics textbooks and just returned from a one-semester sabbatical in Boulder, Colo.

Wayne Wolsey is department chair. A recent sabbatical at Oak Ridge National Laboratory led to an interest in the development of field methods for the analysis of heavy metals in soil. Currently he is developing a module on nuclear energy as part of a collaborative effort for a new approach to the first-year course based upon an environmental theme. He continues his long involvement with the Minnesota Academy of Science and the Minnesota Section of the American Chemical Society. •



Ray Mikkelsen



Wayne Wolsey



cent of Macalester's students were from another country.

In overall rankings, Swarthmore came in first among liberal arts colleges for the second year in a row, followed by Amherst.

*U.S. News* arrives at its overall rankings by surveying college presidents, deans and admissions directors and combining those results with educational information provided by each college.

Here are some of Macalester's rankings in specific categories:

- academic reputation: the college received a rating of 3.3 out of the highest score of 4.0. Only 16 colleges scored as well or better. (This counts for 25 percent of the overall score.)

- 49th in graduation rate and freshman retention (25 percent of score).

- 34th in faculty resources (25 percent of score), which measures class size, salaries, student-to-faculty ratio, faculty degrees, and the percentage of full-time faculty.

- 19th in student selectivity (15 percent of score), which measures student test scores, high school class standing and acceptance rate.

- 21st in financial resources (10 percent of score), which measures the resources a school invests in education.

- 77th in alumni giving (5 percent of score), which measures the average percentage of alumni who contributed to the college during the 1995 and 1996 academic years.

## 'WALTSDAY'

*Alumni and friends celebrate the life of Professor Walt Mink with a symposium and dinner*

ABOUT 120 alumni and admirers of Walt Mink gathered Sept. 27 to participate in "WALTSDAY," an afternoon and evening devoted to the celebration of the life of the late Macalester psychology professor.

Held in the newly remodeled Olin-Rice Science Center, where the Psychology Department once again has its permanent home, "WALTSDAY" featured presentations by 20 alumni and friends, followed by a dinner. The presentations ranged from poetry to Highland dance to a talk on "The Neurobiology of Stress."

"Walt could get interested in anything that a student of his was interested in," said Professor Chuck Torrey, one of the

organizers of the event, who wrote letters of thanks to those who attended. "It was terrific. They helped us to bring Walt Mink along with us when we moved back on campus [from temporary quarters in the Lampert Building]."

When Professor Mink told his colleagues he would not be teaching in the fall of 1996, the Psychology Department sent out letters to a list of psychology graduates soliciting reminiscences and anecdotes about him. Their letters were collected in a scrapbook and presented to Professor Mink a few days before his last hospitalization. Here are some excerpts, reprinted in the day's program:

- "There is something internally calming about Walt. I think it must be related to the way he brings his whole self into every situation: he is never just an adviser or just a teacher, he's the whole thing."

— Ruth Patton '93

- "As I lamented the amount of work I had to do before semester's end, you gently suggested 'Everything important will get done.'"

— Joan Ireland '88

- "He made it clear that he was struggling almost as much as we were to understand how the brain worked, and that he was truly interested in any ideas we might have."

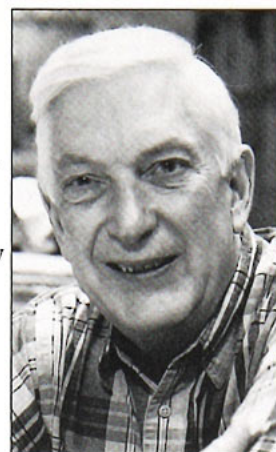
— Bob Desimone '74

- "You possessed a caring rigor and an ability to make the field of psychology comprehensible and relevant to a young man enmeshed in Black Nationalism. And as time passed I was surprised to find myself seeing you as a scholar and a man, perhaps because you treated me like a person rather than a manifestation of a ghetto youth."

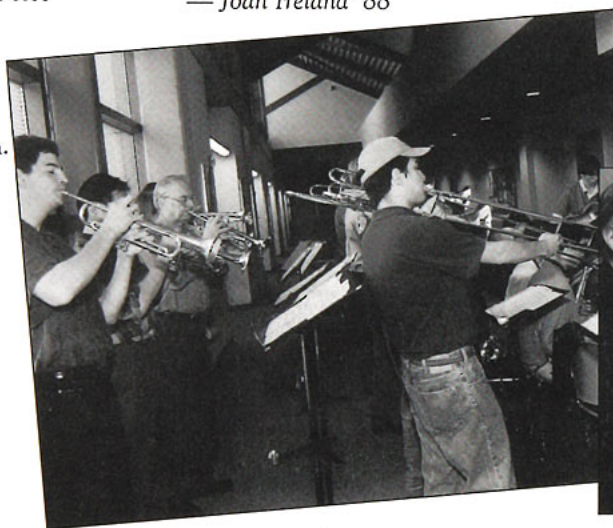
— Warren Simmons '73

- "I don't remember a closed door or lack of time; a selfish word or deed; anger or impatience; feeling stupid or unimportant."

— Amanda Holland '90



Walt Mink taught at Macalester from 1958 until 1996, the year he died.



PHOTOS BY JIM HANSEN



Mac Jazz (top left) entertains during "WALTSDAY." Visible are Josh Miller '00, left, Mike Albrecht '98, wearing cap, and Professor Truman Schwartz. Above: Professors Chuck Green and Roxanne Gudeman with Devan Scott '85 (Richmond, Va.). Left: Jack Bernard '88 (Ann Arbor, Mich.) and Professor Chuck Torrey.



# Act of racial hatred demands our urgent response

by Michael S. McPherson

**M**ACALESTER has recently received a rude reminder of the problem of race in the United States. Late on the night of Sept. 20, a Macalester sophomore returned to Dupre Hall to find ugly racial insults scrawled on a whiteboard outside her room and across a poster of Tiger Woods on her door.

Macalester is part of a nation and a world that includes bigotry and racial hatred; we cannot, as we educate our students in and about our world, expect that we can fully insulate them from that stark and painful reality. And yet to have such hatred literally brought home to one of our students is an affront and an outrage not only to one young woman but to our entire community and to all that we stand for.

As I write, we are trying hard to find the perpetrators. The likelihood that they are members of this community makes the act even more disturbing and difficult. Our community has shown, I believe, great strength in responding to this awful happening. Following my letter to the community informing everyone about the event and expressing my own sense of outrage [see pages 3-4], we invited everyone to a "campus dialog" in Weyerhaeuser Chapel, where more than 450 students,

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that we stand for.**

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faculty and staff gathered to reflect upon this matter and think about our common future. Macalester's student government sponsored a candlelight vigil for further discussion and for reflection on the question, "Where do we go from here?" In the wake of these gatherings, our Board of Trustees issued a statement condemning this act of hatred and affirming in strong terms our community's efforts to realize its multicultural goals.

During these events, I heard an African American student speak movingly of the



disquieting and unwelcome sense of suspicion he felt toward white students in the wake of this incident, making us all aware of how this kind of ugliness breeds distrust. I heard a faculty member in our Communication Studies Department speak of the need for us to listen, really listen, to one another, and to recognize that people of different racial backgrounds understand issues surrounding race in very different terms. I was especially touched when I heard a student at the candlelight vigil say that all of us must find ways to say, "I have fallen short. We have fallen short. I, we, have room to grow."

**A**ND I heard the courageous young woman who was the victim of this assault speak before her classmates in the chapel. She spoke of her pain, of the depth of the hurt inflicted by this cruel message. And then, addressing the hundreds of her fellow Macalester students as well as faculty and staff gathered together in solidarity with her, I heard her say, "Tonight I have hope; hope for Macalester and hope for our nation." It is up to all of us, at Macalester and in this nation, to turn that hope into reality.

Some steps in that direction are already under way here at Mac. We want a campus where the faculty and student body reflect the rich diversity of the United States and, indeed, the world. This is essential to the

Macalester experience. In the past 10 years, the number of full-time faculty of color has grown from only six to 25, figures that include international faculty as well as those who were born in the U.S. The student body, too, has grown increasingly diverse while remaining about the same size. During the same period, the number of U.S. students of color increased from 128 to 207. Macalester is also diversifying the curriculum itself. For example, starting this fall the college has minors in Comparative North American Studies and African American Studies, enabling students to study race as a topic in and of itself as well as the contributions and experiences of people of color.

**N**O ONE at Macalester believes we have done enough to make our college as richly diverse and reflective of the world as we should and can. We have

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**I was especially touched when  
I heard a student at the candlelight  
vigil say that all of us  
must find ways to say,  
"I have fallen short.  
We have fallen short.  
I, we, have room to grow."**

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come a long way, but we have a long way to go. Over the summer, we recruited Dr. Roberto Ifill of Connecticut College to join my senior staff as special assistant for diversity and campus community [see page 2]. Bert's major assignment for this first year is to assemble and to lead a campus-wide committee including faculty, students, staff, alumni and trustees to review and to clarify our mission and goals regarding diversity and multiculturalism, and to recommend concrete steps toward meeting our goals.

Although this effort was already a major campus priority, the outpouring of concern and support from our entire community that followed this terrible incident has increased our sense of urgency in taking up the hard work that lies ahead. ●

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*Michael S. McPherson, the president of Macalester, writes a regular column for Macalester Today.*



by Jon Halvorsen

**S**OME YEARS AGO, a new Macalester graduate who had just landed his first job needed money to buy appropriate clothes for work and make a deposit on an apartment. Professor Karl Egge loaned him the sum, which was not small.

After the graduate had saved enough money to repay the loan, he sent Egge a check. Paul Aslanian,

# GOOD WORK

*Economics Professor Karl Egge  
goes well beyond the classroom to help his  
students choose careers and find jobs*

who tells this story, recalls that Egge "tore the check in half and sent it back to him, with the understanding that sometime in his life he would do the same thing for a non-member of his family."

Egge, a tall, craggy economics professor who arrived at Macalester in 1970 as a "Montana cowboy," to quote Aslanian again, is well known on campus and among alumni as an unofficial career counselor. Over the years, countless economics majors have learned that when you're looking for a job in business or a related field, you should talk to Egge first. His other traits and talents may not be apparent to acquaintances who know his reputation as an economic conservative, a man who believes government has never solved a problem yet.

"He's incredibly generous, and I don't mean just money," says Aslanian, Macalester's former treasurer, now at Swarthmore, and Egge's best friend. "I mean generous just in terms of being warm and supportive. . . . I don't think a week goes by that he doesn't have a long-distance, in-depth

'My belief is that my job is more than just teaching in the classroom and having students go out the door. I'd like to give them some counsel about their careers at the same time.'

— Karl Egge

conversation with a former student about where they are and what they're trying to do. And that's spawned itself — that's part of the network that Karl uses now."

Of the 17 or 18 new faculty members hired at Macalester when he was, only Egge and two others are still teaching at Mac 27 years later. Growing up in Billings, Mont., he learned two key principles from his mother, a homemaker, and his father, who owned a farm machinery business: "You must get your work done before you play" and "stick-to-it-iveness or loyalty."

Through good times and bad at Macalester — and he can remember faculty pay cuts and worse — Egge has done his work and stuck it out. He believes that "the last five years — one under Mike [McPherson] and three or four under [Bob] Gavin — have been kind of the glory years of Mac." He cites the rising number of applications, the quality of the student body and credentials of new faculty, and "the sense of pride among alums that they are connected to a school that's a winner."

Except for a bad knee that has hindered but not stopped his almost daily physical workouts and his 25-year racquetball rivalry with Doug Bolstorff of the Athletic Department, these may be the 54-year-old Egge's best years, too, personally and professionally. On a personal level, he especially enjoys a homemade meal with his wife, Rebecca Egge Moos, a criminal defense lawyer who loves to cook. And he always has three or four major trips lined up — he calls them "gumdrops, something fun and interesting to



look forward to" — whether it's his first trip to Israel, which he took this summer, or a backpacking expedition to the mountains of Montana with his wife and four daughters.

Professionally, he was honored this year with the Leavey Award for Excellence in Private Enterprise Education, given by the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, for creating the course "Entrepreneurs." In the course, Twin Cities business owners who are part of a network of entrepreneurs

called "The Inner Circle" serve as mentors to students in Egge's class. The award came with a \$7,500 check, which he donated to Macalester.

Clearly, many students hold Egge in high regard. In last May's Commencement program, five graduat-





ing seniors listed their donations to the senior class gift as being "in honor of Karl Egge." Only one other faculty member, fellow economics Professor Vasant Sukhatme, received as many tributes.

"He goes the extra mile for students, which for me is what being a professor should be all about," says Jill Bruner '95. "He makes an extreme effort to keep up alumni relations. If there's an alum in town from 30 years ago and he's now treasurer [of a company], Karl will have a barbecue at his house and have his classes over, and they get to meet this alum. I remember that was really neat for me, as early as sophomore year: 'There is life after Macalester and this is what people are doing.'"

What Bruner is doing is a direct result of Egge's mentoring. After two years in investment banking with Merrill Lynch in Chicago, she started a new job last July as a financial analyst for Bairdson Associates, a small private equity firm in Boston. "The most obvious way he helped me was just inspiring me to strive to do something that I thought I probably wouldn't be able to do," Bruner says.

"My belief is that my job is more than just teaching in the classroom and having students go out the door," Egge says. "I'd like to give them some counsel about their careers at the same time, and I'd like to see them take advantage of those opportunities." Economics majors who graduated this year did well on the job market. "But it has not always been that

way. Sometimes it has been a real struggle. But for 15, 20 years, I've put together an updated mailing list of all my friends and former students who them-

'He goes the extra mile for students. The most obvious way he helped me was just inspiring me to strive to do something that I thought I probably wouldn't be able to do.'

— Jill Bruner '95

now have an excellent network of Mac grads from the last 10 years on who are willing to give counsel to current seniors. If you get a fairly hungry senior in economics, they have a huge network out there to help them." ●

selves have good jobs. Then we put together the résumés of current seniors in economics, in the form of a booklet, and we mail it out to all the people on my mailing list, most of whom are Mac alums.

"In addition," Egge says, "we

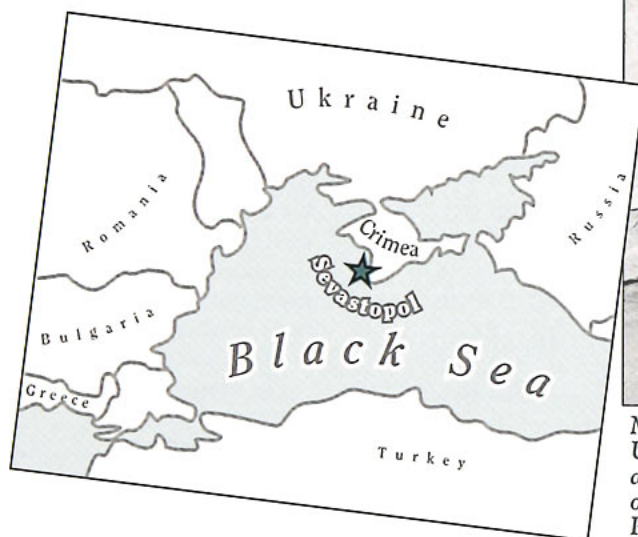
*Professor Karl Egge with 10 economics majors who graduated in May. All of them got jobs in investment banking or in the field of corporate finance.*

Jon Halvorsen is the managing editor of Macalester Today.



# Finding COMMON GROUND

*At an ancient city that both Christians and Jews have called home,  
Ukrainians and Americans are partners, geologists work closely  
with Russian scholars and different  
languages unite people.*



Macalester's contingent at the Black Sea (from left): Ukrainians Olga Shezko, who studied at Mac two years ago, and Julia Berest, who is studying at Mac this fall, University of Wisconsin Professor Mark Beissinger, Zeb Page '99, Professor Karl Wirth, Rachel Green '98 (in front), Professor Gitta Hammarberg (in middle), Adjunct Professor Bob MacLennan (in back), Courtney Kost '98, Professor Jim von Geldern and Professor Andy Overman



Text and photos by Doug Stone

**S**EVASTOPOL, UKRAINE — Macalester Professor Gitta Hammarberg walks into the middle of an anti-NATO demonstration by 100 pensioners and war veterans outside the Crimean government headquarters and engages them in a long conversation about the problems of everyday life in post-Soviet society. The unexpected discussion, in Russian, starts out tense. It ends with invitations for the empathetic Hammarberg to visit the demonstrators' homes for tea.

On top of a mountain called "Ancient Bliss" overlooking the Black Sea, Zeb Page '99 is having the time of his life studying rocks with geology Professor Karl Wirth. "It fit my two old loves of

# on the BLACK SEA

traveling and speaking Russian with my new love of geology," Page says. "It's bliss."

At a cafe near the ancient Greek city of Chersonesus, Macalester classics Professor Andy Overman and political science Professor Mark Beissinger of the University of Wisconsin are comparing notes on the meaning of empire: the ancient Greek and Roman empires with which Overman is intimately familiar, and the 20th century Soviet empire which Beissinger has spent his career studying.

Inside the cramped archives at the Chersonesus Museum Preserve, a stone's throw from the Black Sea, Rachel Green '98 and Macalester Professor Jim von Geldern consult on their efforts to translate Russian documents. The documents tell of a

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*Doug Stone, director of college relations at Macalester, has a special interest in Ukraine. His maternal grandfather was born in Kremenchuk and left for the U.S. in 1911 to avoid persecution against Jews under the czar. His paternal grandmother was born near Odessa and emigrated to America for similar reasons in the early 1900s.*

basilica built over what Overman and his archaeological colleagues believe was a Jewish synagogue. "She's found quite a few significant new details," von Geldern says. "This is a case [for proof of the synagogue] that will be built on details."

These are but a few telling scenes from two weeks of the Macalester Black Sea Project. They took place last August near the old city of Chersonesus and the modern city of Sevastopol. The Black Sea Project, now in its fourth year of digging in search of a 2nd–4th century (Common Era) synagogue and Jewish community, added a new twist this year. Using the dig and its location in the historic Crimea region of Ukraine as a focus,



*"It's been an unbelievable combination for me: geology and Russian," said Zeb Page '99, right, shown atop a mountain overlooking the Black Sea with Macalester geology Professor Karl Wirth.*

the project brought together faculty members and students from several disciplines to study and learn and collaborate. Von Geldern and Overman initiated the idea for the collaboration, and the project obtained a \$25,000 grant from the Fund for Mutual Understanding (part of the Rockefeller Foundation) to support the faculty. In all, five Macalester faculty members and Beissinger from Wisconsin, three Macalester students, two other American students, and six other members of the archeological team traveled to Chersonesus, where they worked with their Ukrainian counterpart, Misha Zolotarev, and eight students from Zaporozhye State University.

"This was a great opportunity to do something new," von Geldern says of his work in Ukraine. "It's



really a chance to live the liberal arts," Overman adds.

Here is an inside look at two weeks of the Black Sea Project, circa 1997:

## *Judaism and angry Communists*

FOUR YEARS ago, the first Black Sea Project group traveled 27 hours from Kiev to Sevastopol in a bus that broke down frequently. This summer, the trip from Odessa to Sevastopol took only nine hours, the air conditioning usually worked and there was only one breakdown. Overman considers that progress.

"Sevastopol itself was closed to Westerners and outsiders until 1½ years ago because it was the

170 years of archeology at Chersonesus, Overman and his colleagues presented papers on their findings. The historic Jewish community was discussed for several hours and the Russian and Ukrainian archeologists asked questions. Overman said the difference in atmosphere was a sea change.

"We felt all along this was a unique city and area with an unusual history, culture and political situation," Overman explained as a motivation for wanting to bring colleagues to Sevastopol.

His belief about the interesting mix of politics and history proved correct on the second day of the visit when Hammarberg, who teaches Russian studies at Macalester, found herself in the middle of that demonstration in Simferopol, the capital of the Crimea. The senior citizen protesters were

angry that the president of Ukraine was vacationing while, they declared, others were starving. As police officers and other security people watched, the demonstrators described themselves as "honest Communists" who longed for what they considered "the good old days" in the old Soviet Union, Hammarberg said afterward. They blamed the United States and the West for their problems. "They thought I was a journalist and that I could take their message to the West," Hammarberg said. "I told them I was a literature teacher and then they identified with me as a teacher. They liked it that I had learned their language and that I had made their literature my life's work.

"They were so angry and desperate. It was a little intimidating. I couldn't get out of this



"They were so angry and desperate," Professor Gitta Hammarberg, right, said of this intense discussion she had in Russian with pensioners and war veterans protesting outside the Crimean government headquarters in Simferopol. The senior citizens longed for "the good old days" in the Soviet Union.

headquarters for the Russian Black Sea fleet," he recalled. "We had to give up our passports to police and the KGB followed us. We were the first Americans to visit Balaklava, site of the famous Crimean War battle in 1854. There was a sign that said 'No Trespassing' in Russian. Misha [Zolotarev, chief archeologist at the Chersonesus museum] took the sign and threw it off the cliff into the sea. 'The Soviet Union is dead,' he said."

One of the biggest changes since Overman and the project archeologists began visiting Chersonesus in 1993 is the degree to which Jews and Judaism can be discussed openly. The archeological research focuses on the existence of a Jewish community — not a popular subject during Soviet rule. At a conference this August celebrating

circle. I was moved by their complaints."

While the demonstration was not part of Hammarberg's itinerary, it gave her insights she may not have found in the library.

"The Crimea is a central part of Russian literature and history, so it was important to experience it," she said. "It is crucial for Jim [von Geldern] and me to be in this environment."

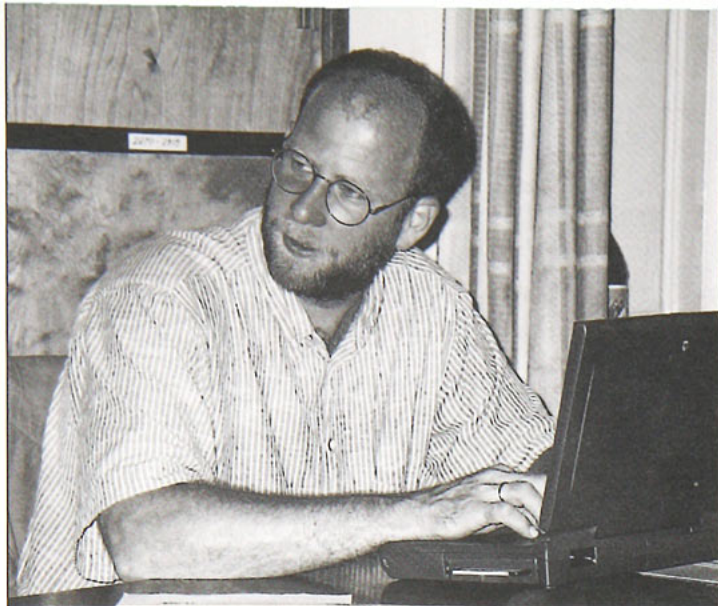
And crucial for students, as well. Back at the dormitory-like building that was home to Macalester students and professors, Mac students gathered most nights with their Ukrainian counterparts from Zaporozhye University to relive the day and to talk

about their lives. The conversation was conducted in a combination of Russian, English, French, Spanish and laughter. Over food, refreshments, cards and chess, it was also where much of the cultural exchange took place each day.

'There are three languages being spoken here: Englishsky, Russiansky and geologsky.'

— Zeb Page '99





"This was a great opportunity to do something new," said Russian studies Professor Jim von Geldern. He is shown translating Russian documents in the archives.

## Rocky relationships

"YOU should have seen their eyes when we invited them to go," von Geldern says of Zeb Page and Rachel Green, two of the Macalester students. For Page, Green and Courtney Kost '98, the journey to the Black Sea was a chance to return to Russia, practice their language skills, meet Ukrainian students and work closely with a faculty member on the dig or other project.

"I hoped it would be like this, but I didn't know it would be this good," said Page, a geology major from Victor, Colo., who speaks Russian and lived in

Russia for three months during high school. "We really did the rocks around here. It's been an unbelievable combination for me: geology and Russian."

Each day, Page and his faculty mentor, Karl Wirth, set out to explore the geology of a different area. With Hammarberg's translating help, they were able to make arrangements with Ukrainian geologists in Simferopol who guided them throughout the countryside. They took samples, photographed rock formations, pinpointed their exact location with a device that bounces a signal off a satellite and listened intently as their

Ukrainian colleagues explained the nature of the geology in the Crimea.

On the trip up the mountain, Page and Wirth stopped so often to examine rocks that their guide was concerned they wouldn't make it down before dark. "I was blown away by how quickly our relationship developed with the Ukrainians,"

Page said. That relationship with the Ukrainian geologists began quickly en route to the mountain. As Page joked in the van, "There are three languages being spoken here: Englishsky, Russiansky and geologsky."

'This definitely puts a big capstone on my Macalester experience. To put in use what you've learned in class. To see how professors do research, to collaborate.'

— Rachel Green '98

Page and Wirth worked closely in the field, sometimes up to 12 hours a day. Page hopes to write an honors paper on what he and Wirth discover about the chemical content of Crimean volcanic rock.

"The Crimean mountains are situated at the junction between several plates [of the Earth] and have had a very long and complex history," Wirth said. "By studying the composition



Macalester Professor Andy Overman, right, is the director of the Black Sea Project. Rachel Green '98 is at left. Next to Overman is Melanie Parson, an architecture student at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and daughter of Macalester Academic Dean Kathleen Parson '67.



of the volcanic rocks, we hope to be able to unravel part of this history. This is a team effort. Zeb knows the language and culture. I can help him understand the geology."

On the eve of his departure, Page was enthusiastic about his experiences. "It was great being in the field," he said. "Getting to know the Ukrainian geologists was terrific. My Russian has improved the last couple weeks. I really enjoyed getting to know the Zap students. I made new friends. I even think the food was OK." (Some of his student and faculty colleagues might disagree about the bland combination of bread, boiled meat, bulgar wheat and tea that was the centerpiece of most dining hall meals.)

### *Using what you've learned*

WHILE Page trekked up mountains and explored seaside caves, Rachel Green spent her second year at Chersonesus in a pottery shed and in the museum archives. A Russian and history



*In a pottery shed near the dig, Rachel Green '98, right, of Seattle and a Ukrainian student go over artifacts found in previous years. Green, who is majoring in Russian and history, wants to work in Israel with Russian Jewish immigrants and perhaps live in Russia for a time before going on to graduate school.*

major from Seattle, Green lived in Russia in the fall of 1996 and has had an interest in the area since she was 9 and accompanied her parents on educational trips. In the pottery shed, she and a Zaporozhye student are comparing pictures of handles found in 1995 with the actual pieces. In the archives, she is checking earlier translations of Russian archeological reports for accuracy. It is painstaking work. With the help of another

Zaporozhye student, she was able to match photographs taken years ago with a location on a map of the site.

"The reason I wanted Rachel to come to Russia is because she wants to go to grad school," von Geldern

'The interdisciplinary collaboration was the best thing about the trip.'

— Professor Gitta Hammarberg

explained. "To do that you have to work in archives, and she's doing great work here."

For her part, Green found her experiences fascinating and varied. "This definitely puts a big capstone on my Macalester experience. To put in use what you've learned in

class. To see how professors do research, to collaborate. The close relationships with professors and international students are quite something." As if to illustrate her point, Green smoothly shifts gears to



*American and Ukrainian students relax together over a celebratory meal in the dining room of the dormitory-like building where they stayed.*



translate an interview with a Zaporozhye student who doesn't speak English.

At the dig site, Courtney Kost '98 of Fargo, N.D., spent her two weeks matching soil colors for comparison with other sites, sketching the rocks, recording and storing pottery samples. She worked closely with the project's site director and with the Ukrainian students who are doing much of the digging. A Russian and history major, Kost has lived in St. Petersburg, and decided late last spring to make the trip to Chersonesus.

"My language skills come back at the strangest times," Kost said. "At the market, I wanted the woman to break [Ukrainian money]. She understood me. It's the same with the Zaporozhye students. I speak enough Russian. They speak enough English. We manage. This [experience] confirms that I definitely want to continue studying Russian language and culture."

### *Translation's trials and rewards*

FOR nearly three hours one warm Friday afternoon in the un-airconditioned second floor of the archeological museum, Professors Hammarberg and von Geldern, with only 45 minutes to prepare,



A Russian military ship in the Black Sea sails past the 6th century basilica at the site of the dig.

translated from English to Russian for Overman and three colleagues as they presented their findings on the Black Sea Project. Some 75 archeologists from Ukraine and Russia listened intently. When it was over, Hammarberg and von Geldern were exhausted.

"I've never done formal translation before," Hammarberg said. "And when it's from Russian to English, it's 10 times harder." Von Geldern explained that they had to be careful because they

didn't want to translate ungrammatically, making the archeologists appear unprofessional. "This is exactly what we're here for," von Geldern added. "We're glad to help our colleagues communicate. . . .

The translations we did [were] geological, historical, archeological, cultural, business."

"Chit-chat and car negotiations," Hammarberg added with a smile. Her unofficial duties each day included helping Wirth and Page arrange for drivers for their geology excursions.

"The interdisciplinary collaboration was the best thing about the trip," she said.

"To be able to set up the geologists. Hanging out with [political scientist] Mark Beissinger — I learned a lot from him. I also saw Russia through different people's eyes."

Despite all the hours she spent helping colleagues, Hammarberg also spent four days in the archives at the Vorontsov Palace in nearby Alupka doing her own research.

The archives contain an unpublished list of the library of Princess Ekaterina Dashkova, an 18th century Russian Hammarberg is studying. She also got to see a woman's album from that era containing illustrations and elegies, and took photographs of some materials. She developed a relationship with the museum staff that will be helpful in future research. And she gathered photos and guidebooks and other materials to use in her language and literature classes at Macalester.

When they weren't on a Crimean mountain, Wirth and Page were examining the geology of the site at Chersonesus. Wirth wants to study the extent of the partially submerged ancient city

and the bedrock foundation beneath the dig site for clues to the source of building materials used at the site and the evolution of the coastline. He plans to write a geological section for the archeologists' report.

Wirth, who normally does field trips with other geologists, said, "Now I'm learning about culture and history. It's a more complete experience rather than

## MACALESTER *Black Sea Project*

**Founded:** 1993; first digging in 1994

**Where:** at the tip of the Crimean peninsula on the north shore of the Black Sea

**1997 participants:** 26 total; five Macalester faculty; three Mac students; a professor from University of Wisconsin; two other U.S. students; two faculty from University of Puget Sound; four other project members; director of archeology at Chersonesus Museum Preserve; eight students from Zaporozhye State University

**Primary purpose:** to find evidence of a 2nd–4th century Common Era Jewish synagogue and community

**Other key goals:** to break down cultural barriers; stimulate faculty and faculty-student collaboration

**Sponsors:** Macalester College; University of Puget Sound; Fund for Mutual Understanding; private donors

**Group's favorite food:** bread

**Least favorite food:** boiled meat

**Greatest luxury:** hot showers

**Least available:** hot showers

— Doug Stone



just 'Come and study the rocks.' It's interesting to see that others are having cultural experiences, from the meals to riding the buses... Having common experiences will bind us together. You can't really put a value on that."

He plans to collaborate on a paper on Crimean geology with the Ukrainian geologist who was his guide and teacher for more than a week.

Overman and von Geldern hope the two weeks on the Black Sea can serve as a model for future area studies education. "Even in the classics, we have to get out of the classroom and to the site. And you have to be OK with not figuring everything out right away," Overman said.

"Field work," von Geldern added, "is: look at what you have, conjecture what it might be and

were intended to pinpoint more precisely dates and locations of activities during the time Jews lived among Greeks and Romans and Christians at Chersonesus and to check and re-check archival records for further clues about life there. When it was suggested that the research is like detective work, like Lt. Colombo solving a crime, Professor Doug Edwards, an archeologist from University of Puget Sound, replied, "But he solves the crimes. We create more mysteries."

"The work in the field and in the archives over the last four years has been extremely rewarding and surprising," Overman said. "We have discovered more and been perplexed by more than we ever could have imagined. We are going to pause this year and make sure we can make sense of all of our finds and get our research out to a broader public."

Overman and the other archeologists from the project will spend the next year

'To Chersonesus, this amazing place, for bringing people together as in the past. It is still uniting people from many different nations.'

— Professor Andy Overman

writing a popular book on their findings. They also hope to produce a CD-ROM to accompany the book that would contain technical and archeological information, drawings and background. They may dig next summer at Chersonesus, but certainly a small group will return for additional archival research, Overman

said. He hopes to expand the project's research to include Jewish history in other parts of Ukraine and Russia. He would also like to continue aspects of the program, including student and faculty exchanges (two Zaporozhye students, Julia Berest and Evgenji Los, are studying at Macalester this fall and Misha Zolotarev will probably come here in the spring) and further collaboration with other programs and departments such as Russian and East European Studies, Classics, Geology and Geography.

Overman sought to capture the spirit of the project in a toast at one of the celebration dinners: "To Chersonesus, this amazing place, for bringing people together as in the past. It is still uniting people from many different nations."

After another farewell dinner, the Macalester students and faculty and the Ukrainian students and archeologists walked outside to watch fireworks from the harbor in downtown Sevastopol. The once-closed city was celebrating. It was Ukrainian independence day. ●



Courtney Kost '98 (Fargo, N.D.) at the site of the archeological dig. A Russian and history major who has lived in St. Petersburg, Kost called the Black Sea experience "definitely internationalism in action."

then go look for confirmation. You fire 10 blanks and on the 11th one you've got it. The Russians are looking for a viable past for themselves: Scythians [an ancient people who lived in what is now Russia and later the Crimea] as proto-Slavs. They are finding a monocultural past. Andy is finding a multicultural past."

### *Future of the Black Sea Project*

THIS YEAR'S research found no new startling evidence, but confirmed many of the earlier findings of the archeologists, Overman said. He and his colleagues are convinced, through their digging and an extensive review of the archival evidence, that a Jewish synagogue existed at Chersonesus between the 2nd and 4th centuries Common Era. Among the evidence is a Hebrew inscription, two menorahs and an oil lamp fragment that appears to have a Torah shrine on it. The efforts this summer





*In small towns and big cities,  
Macalester alumni across the country  
are making a difference  
in the communities where they live.*

*Just call them*

# M ACTIVISTS

**C**OMMUNITY ACTIVISM has been a core value at Macalester from the start. It takes many forms, but at its heart, activism means the imperative of taking responsibility for the well-being of our communities. Joan Adams Mondale '52, reflecting recently on her Macalester education, no doubt spoke for countless other alumni when she said, "Service was assumed. You were going to do something to make your community better . . . no matter whether you were a homemaker, a lawyer, an accountant."

On the following pages, we look at 17 alumni. Representing every decade from the 1940s to the 1990s, they are living up to the ideals they set for themselves during their Macalester years.

*Articles by Carolyn Griffith*



## Acting to preserve the past for the future: Karl Anuta '57 and Barbara Olds Anuta '56

**B**OULDER, COLO. — One of the ways that Karl Anuta '57 and Barbara Olds Anuta '56 contribute to Boulder, their home for 40 years, is by actively working to preserve its past.

Karl, an attorney, is president of Historic Boulder, a 25-year-old group formed to defend historically significant buildings against demolition. He also serves on both the city's Landmarks Preservation Board and the county's Historic Preservation Advisory Board.

"What's rewarding to me is the thrill of being involved in civic affairs — meeting people, getting

Macalester also introduced the couple to the richness of belonging to an international community. "We were very good friends with some foreign students in college, and that's something we have continued," says Barbara, who was the 14th member of her extended family to attend Macalester. Both are active with the Boulder Friends of International Students, a university-based organization, and helped found the Boulder Council of International Visitors, which matches local hosts with foreign professionals and families who are brought in by the academic and scientific communities.

"It's really broadened us," Karl says. "When our son graduated from high school in 1977, we took the kids on a trip around the world, visiting friends we had made here in their homes in Great Britain, Saudi Arabia and Australia."

**'Macalester turned us into world citizens.'**

In 1996, the Anutas were honored by the *Boulder Daily Camera* newspaper as "Pacesetters in Community Service" for their contributions.

"Macalester turned us into world citizens," says Karl, remembering the influence of Professors Mitau, Huntley Dupre and O.T. Walter in particular. "They taught us that you couldn't complain about things unless you were willing to get involved."

— Karl Anuta '56

## Putting children first — and changing the world: George Theoharis '93

**S**T. PAUL — George Theoharis '93 looms large in his kindergarten classroom, where the chairs and tables don't quite reach his knees. "Teaching public school, in my mind, is a way to change the world, by changing the way children see and interact with the world," he says.

Since the fall after he graduated, Theoharis has taught at Frost Lake Elementary School on St. Paul's East Side. He started half-time, teaching kindergarten; for the last four years he's taught kindergarten for half the day, and spent the other half working with another teacher in first grade. "Now I get to see some of my kids for two years in a row — it's really exciting to see the progress they make," he says, noting that many of the children, who come from Southeast Asian immigrant families, speak little English when they start school.

Theoharis grew up in Milwaukee in a family that, as he puts it, is "very involved in terms of social responsibility and political activism." Coming to Macalester, he immediately became close friends with six classmates — Sarah Merkle, Shawn Reifsteck, Dave Colby, Jessica Wodatch, Megan



Karl and Barbara Anuta in Chautauqua Park, the oldest neighborhood in Boulder, framed by the Flatiron Mountains. The two were named "Pacesetters in Community Service" in 1996 for their contributions to Boulder.

involved, standing up in front of the city council and making a pitch for something," says Karl, who estimates that about 20 percent of his law practice is devoted to work for non-profits, much of that in historic preservation.

Barbara, who works in the Boulder County Clerk's Office, is on the board of directors of the Boulder Museum of History.

Both have also been committed participants in the political process: Barbara has served as both president and treasurer of the Boulder League of Women Voters, and Karl has been active in the Republican Party at the local and state levels. "[Macalester Professor] Ted Mitau said to pick a party — it didn't matter which one — and stay involved," Karl remembers.





*"Teaching public school, in my mind, is a way to change the world," says George Theoharis '93. He's shown teaching pre-kindergarten children last summer at Mounds Park All Nations Magnet School in St. Paul.*

Unger and Erin Bowley — who were avid volunteers from the word "matriculate"; six of the seven spent January of their sophomore year working with Habitat for Humanity in South Carolina, then came back and started a Habitat program at Mac.

As an undergrad, he also started a volunteer program at St. Paul's Phalen Lake Elementary School, spending a couple of days a week there for three and a half years. "I've always loved kids," he explains. It was Mac education Professor Ruthanne

Kurth-Schai — "the best teacher I've ever had" — who started Theoharis thinking about teaching as a vehicle for positive social change.

"It's a combination of teaching children skills and teaching them to be good people," he says. He especially likes working with the youngest of school-age children because "they have an excitement about life that many adults have lost." Plays, murals and other classroom projects with tangible results are part of his strategy for keeping "my kids" excited about learning.

Putting his free time where his mouth is, Theoharis did more and more as the years went by to help build programs that would give kids a way to participate in the running of their school. "At Frost Lake or any school, it's important to give kids a say," he says, pointing out that this is the first step in good citizenship and ongoing community activism. He introduced a student council, open to fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders, which has organized all-school events and a recycling program, collected money for flood relief and sent volunteers to a local food bank.

"Getting involved in their school and education helps kids cultivate a sense of responsibility," he notes. He also produces a yearbook with the sixth graders, sales of which, he says, have gone up and up because it's made by and for the kids themselves.

"As a young man in an elementary school, I'm also a good role model," Theoharis points out, noting that at the request of female colleagues, he's taught sex education to Frost Lake's fifth- and sixth-

*'It's a combination of teaching children skills and teaching them to be good people.'*

*— George Theoharis '93*



grade boys. "That's an opportunity to get boys off on the right foot in dating. I talk not only about how their bodies change, but also how you treat other people with respect in relationships," explains Theoharis, who was a resident adviser at Macalester and part of a group that worked to eliminate sexual assault.

This fall, Theoharis started a doctoral program in education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. "In teaching, I've realized I can affect the kids in my class, but you can really only have an impact on one classroom at a time. I'd like to be an assistant principal or principal eventually. That way, I could reach a lot more kids," he explains.

## Lives of laughter: Milt Boyd '49 and Betty Lamb Boyd '47

**GIG HARBOR, WASH.**—More than 30 years ago, Milton Boyd created an alter ego, Grandpa Happy, for his top-rated children's TV show in Rock Island, Ill. Wherever Grandpa Happy goes, you can find his best friend

Clarence, "an ook-ook bird — a mixed-up cuckoo," Boyd says of the puppet.

"Clarence is real," Boyd insists. "Even though I'm his voice, I never know what he'll say!"

Grandpa Happy has been off the air for decades. But he still entertains children's groups in Gig Harbor, where Milt '49 and his wife, Elizabeth Lamb Boyd '47, who raised six children of their own, settled in 1966.

Entertainment is what Milt and Betty Boyd do best, and they've been doing it together, and bringing joy to community audiences, since their post-World War II years at Macalester.

After 15 years in local radio and TV in Rock Island, Ill., Milt segued into teaching music and drama in the early 1960s. Moving to the Seattle area, he taught choral music and drama for 22 years at Peninsula High School, which now has an auditorium named after him. Betty, who taught English there herself for several years, supported Milt's high school plays by making costumes, working with props and selling tickets. "There's an awful lot to be done when you're putting on a high school play," Betty notes.

Their partnership extends to the couple's long involvement, both onstage and backstage, with

local theater and church productions. Together and separately, they've served on the board of directors, acted, sung, directed, built sets, made costumes, and run lights and sound for The Performance Circle and other community theaters.

"I'm really better backstage," Betty says modestly. "Oh, you are not," Milt retorts, in what sounds like a long-running debate.

They're also active in the Gig Harbor United Methodist Church and volunteer as drivers for the Peninsula FISH Food Bank. In 1994, Milt, who's also raised funds for the Lions Club and the American Cancer Society, was named Citizen of the Year by the Gig Harbor-Peninsula Area Chamber of Commerce.

The Boyds remember Macalester as a place filled with people who believed in community activism. In the post-war years, Betty recalls, the most popular veterans' organization on campus, the American Veterans Committee, promoted citizenship rather than veterans' interests. "Its motto was 'Citizens first, veterans second,'" she recalls.

"The atmosphere at Mac is something that will live with us forever," Milt says. "There was just such a feeling that service to your community, and to your God, were just part of life."

## Duet for a small town: John Chamberlain '69 and Katha Ukena Chamberlain '69

**LESUEUR, MINN.**—"You can't hide in a small community," declares John Chamberlain '69.

He and Katha Ukena Chamberlain '69 have lived in little LeSueur, Minn. — population 3,700 — for 23 years. And hiding has been the furthest thing from their minds. The two have worked side by side, weaving themselves so deeply into the tapestry of church and town life that it's hard to imagine LeSueur without them.

It was Valley National Bank, owned by John's father, that took the Chamberlains to LeSueur in 1974, after John earned an M.B.A. at Cornell. John spent part of his youth in LeSueur, and the dual attractions of career opportunity and small-town stability appealed to the young couple.

John and Katha met in Macalester's choirs. They are especially grateful to Dale Warland, who directed them their last two years and became a close friend. "We spent almost two hours a day in rehearsal," Katha remembers. "In the 'real' world you could never get an experience like that."

Music is a Macalester thread that's laced itself through their lives, and by extension, through the lives of those around them. Katha, who like

John is an elected and ordained elder in the local Presbyterian church, has directed its church music program for 15 years and serves on the Twin Cities Area Presbytery's worship committee. Both have represented the presbytery at the Presbyterian Church's national General Assembly. "We derive great joy in singing praise to God," Katha says, speaking for both of them.

John and Katha's own vocal duets have long been a mainstay of local rites of passage. There are people in LeSueur who say that nobody in the community is properly married or buried unless the Chamberlains sing for the occasion.

Katha, who taught school until the couple's second child was born, has also been integrally

involved in ensuring the health of music, drama, dance and fine arts programs in LeSueur's schools. For 10 years, she's worked with the local organization Humanities Are Vital to Education (HAVE), which raises money from foundations, businesses and individuals to bring performers into the schools, and schoolchildren to Twin Cities performances. In 1996, she received the first Children First Award from the LeSueur-Henderson public school district for her contributions.

The desire to create opportunities for LeSueur's children — including the Chamberlains' own two sons, now in their 20s — also led John to take over the Cub Scout pack and then the Boy Scout troop in 1982, with Katha's support. John was Scoutmaster for seven years. Both have gone on to serve Scouting on many levels.

Katha's been a full-time volunteer for decades, involved also in alumni admissions work for Macalester, and on the board of directors for the local United Way. In 1995, John made the leap himself, selling the bank he had eventually purchased from his father, and trading in his bank presidency for a business card that reads "Volunteer in Development" for the Presbyterian Church Foundation.

"I have a second career as a volunteer in non-profit development," he says, noting that this is also



The Boyds cruise on Burley Lagoon, which has been central to their lives since they moved to Gig Harbor, Wash., in 1966. They met at an Iowa hospital in 1946, when Milt was recovering from his war wounds in Europe and Betty was an Army physical therapy tech.



John and Katha Chamberlain at Macalester, where they met in the college's choirs.

'Nearly everyone in town [Gig Harbor] knows and respects Milt and Betty.'

— a Tacoma News Tribune reporter in 1996



'The culture of service was taught to us at Macalester — and what is political activism but being active in common life?'

— John Chamberlain '69

the focus of his involvement with the Boy Scouts, and with Macalester College. "My volunteerism has evolved from activities directly affecting my children and the community in which I owned a business."

After so many years in rural Minnesota, John expresses concern about how the increasing consolidation of agriculture and commerce will ultimately affect the quality of small-town life. He sees these trends taking away local livelihoods, causing populations to stagnate or decline, and schools and small businesses to close their doors.

"I contributed to that trend myself," he says, explaining that the handwriting on his particular wall indicated that Valley National (now First Farmers and Merchants National Bank) would have to grow or become part of a bigger operation to remain viable. "My single most important business decision was to negotiate a sale that provided a way out for me, and better prospects for my employees and customers. I tried to sell to someone as much like me as possible — except that he had more capital."

Running a small-town bank, volunteering in the schools, serving the church may seem like surpris-

rock music, psychedelic lights and slide show about the war, deeply offended many parents.

"My father stood up and booed," recalls John, who was sympathetic to the anti-war movement but largely an observer.

Yet despite the questioning of established values that took place on campus during those years, the overriding message that John and Katha took away with them was one that has resonated for generations of Macalester alumni.

"We realized there was a lot of need in the world," Katha says simply, "and were excited to make a difference."

## Real life in the Hudson Valley: Tom Nyquist '56 and Corinne Johnson Nyquist '57

**N**EW PALTZ, N.Y. — Everyone knows the 1950s was a time of dull, stifling conformity. Corinne Johnson Nyquist '57, a Macalester student for four of those years, begs to disagree.

"One very great influence [of Macalester] was always to challenge the norms," she recalls. "When I was at Mac, [Charles] Turck was president and we flew the U.N. flag above the American flag. We would have speakers who really challenged us. To me, this was very exciting. At Mac, I first met people who were asking questions."

She also met Tom Nyquist '56, back from Army duty in Okinawa. The GI from Montana and the young woman who lived at home in Minneapolis and commuted to Macalester did much of their courting at meetings of the Cosmopolitan Club, composed primarily of international students but open to Americans like Tom and Corinne who were eager to get to know them.

Although Corinne describes her Mac experiences as "exhilarating," she feels sorry for anyone who describes college as the best years of one's life: "You should have so many things happening throughout your life that are exciting that college just becomes, in a sense, a launching pad."

Tom, a former professor of African studies at the local State University of New York campus, is the mayor of this village in the mid-Hudson River Valley, where the Nyquists have lived for nearly 30 years. Since he was first elected in 1986, Tom has dealt with countless issues, from the mundane to the major. Tom, who also has his own consulting business, advising 90 community colleges about funding sources, acknowledges that being mayor can be a thankless job. "But on the other side of the coin, I like to be where decisions are being



Corinne Johnson Nyquist '57 and Tom Nyquist '56, who met at Macalester, back at Mac in 1996 for Tom's 40th class reunion.

ingly quiet forms of activism for two people who came of age against the tie-dyed backdrop of the 1960s. Their class, the couple relates, was the first to eschew graduating in caps and gowns; the black armbands that students wanted to wear to protest the Vietnam War would have been invisible on traditional garb. "We donated the money for the robes to the anti-war effort," Katha recalls. The irreverent tone of the 1969 commencement ceremony, with its





GREG HELGESON

Environmental activist and businesswoman Laurie Brown '87 at her Restore the Earth Store in Minneapolis. It closed in August, but she continues her vision with a new business, Brown and Company, in Shoreview. "Keeping focused on the big picture gives you a lot of hope," she says.

made. Also, I think one owes something to the community that you live in."

Tom, who has held several other village positions, is most proud of leading the effort to purchase an abandoned railroad line on the edge of the village and turn it into a "rail trail," 12 miles long, that residents use for walking, hiking and biking. "It's really a marvelous resource," he says. "It's something for all future generations."

Corinne, an outreach librarian at SUNY, is finishing her doctorate in information science. She points out that everyone else in the family already has a Ph.D., including Tom, daughter Lynn, and son Jonathan Nyquist '80 and daughter-in-law Laura Toran '80, now both at Temple University. Active in local Democratic Party politics for more than 20 years, Corinne has also been deeply involved in researching and commemorating the life of Sojourner Truth, the celebrated abolitionist and women's rights advocate, who was born into

slavery in the New Paltz area 200 years ago. "I guess you could say I'm a facilitator in an attempt to understand as much as we can about what I've come to call her formative years." Corinne, who has developed a slide presentation on Truth, was interviewed on CNN this past summer and is a featured speaker this fall at a week-long conference on Truth.

As a reflection of their international outlook, the Nyquists have spent four different periods in Africa. Although Tom's research was usually the focus, in 1987 Corinne was the principal U.S. organizer for a human rights conference, funded by the Ford Foundation, held in the small African country of Lesotho. Tom is also a longtime member of the board of directors of the Partnership for Service Learning, which sends college students to sites around the world for work experiences.

Looking back on her Macalester experiences, Corinne Nyquist cherishes the Cosmopolitan Club's internationalism, the "community of learners" she found, the relationships she developed with faculty like Huntley Dupre, the enduring friendships she made and the political involvement she began during Political Emphasis Week. "All these things that I learned, I thought, 'This is school, but these things don't happen in real life.'"

"What I discovered was that it was exactly what happens in real life. It was a wonderful preparation."

— Jon Halvorsen

## Restoring the Earth and the paradigm shift: Laurie Brown '87

**M**INNEAPOLIS — Touring Restore the Earth with store owner and environmental activist Laurie Brown '87, you can't help but get a crash course in late 20th century commercial chemistry.

"The most important thing we can do for the environment is limit the amount of toxic, hazardous chemicals we use," Brown says emphatically. "There have been 100,000 synthetic chemicals developed since World War I. Now we see almost a

'I think one owes something to the community that you live in.' — Tom Nyquist '56



thousand new ones every year. Most are unlike anything found in nature."

Chemical proliferation, Brown explains, is considered a major factor in the growing number of people who suffer from asthma, allergies and chemical sensitivities. The incidence of asthma alone, she says, has doubled since 1980. Not surprisingly, young mothers who want to create a healthy, non-toxic environment for their children make up a big chunk of her customer base.

In 1991, Brown opened *Restore the Earth*, a Minneapolis department store — carrying everything from house paint to greeting cards — for people who want to live with fewer chemical contaminants. The paints contain no volatile organic chemicals or formaldehyde; the household linens are manufactured using no formaldehyde, no bleach and only all-natural dyes. She sold cloth diapers, shoes made from tree-top latex rather than leather and jeans sewn from hemp. "Hemp crops give over twice the yield of cotton, and are naturally pest-resistant, so there's less pesticide use," Brown says.

Retailing, however, has proven a personally gratifying yet financially unprofitable route to the "paradigm shift" in attitudes and behavior that Brown sees as essential to the health of the planet. "I started out with the sense that if people knew the truth they'd change. But the truth is a hard sell," she admits. Also, "selling environmental" involves providing nearly as much information as product. It requires trained and knowledgeable salespeople, a concept at odds with traditional low-wage, high-turnover retail staffing practices.

Brown, who received a Great Minnesota Green-UP Award from Minnesota Atty. Gen. Skip Humphrey on Earth Day in 1996, closed the store this past August after seven years in business. But she's got a strong, and growing, commercial client list for non-toxic cleaning products — with the City of St. Paul her latest coup — and has by no means surrendered her vision for a healthier world. "I still haven't given up hope on the big picture."

With the encouragement of psychology Professor Walt Mink, Brown approached her college education, and her activist career, as a "big picture" rather than a clearly defined series of predetermined steps. While she was at Macalester, her older brother David's early struggles with schizophrenia turned

her once black-and-white view of life and learning upside down, and propelled her to help found the Alliance for the Mentally Ill. With Mink's support, she left Macalester in 1979, just five courses short of her degree, to become a registered lobbyist for the organization. She has also served on the board of the Ramsey County Human Services Committee and as chair of the Ramsey County Mental Health Advisory Council.

"I didn't do anything the way a normal student does," Brown recalls. "Walt Mink [who died in 1996] saw something in me that I didn't necessarily see, and encouraged me to take advantage of the experiences that came my way, even if they interrupted my academic progress. I don't think I would have finished my degree without his support."

'[Professor] Walt Mink saw something in me that I didn't necessarily see. . . . I don't think I would have finished my degree without his support.'

— Laurie Brown '87





Brown returned to Macalester to complete her degree as an Adult Scholar in 1987, then managed Polly Mann's third-party campaign for the U.S. Senate in 1988.

It was her interest in mental health and the physiology of psychology that led, indirectly, to her environmental focus. While at Macalester in the late '70s, she took a semester off to study at the Brain/Bio Center in Princeton, N.J., and learned that environmental allergens that cross the blood-brain barrier have the power to affect mood dramatically. "That was revolutionary thinking at the time. Now, allergies are a huge factor in my environmental business."

Now considering her next move in the battle for the environment, Brown says she would like to

work at crafting and delivering an eco-friendly message that the public at large will buy into, and act upon. After a career based on intuitive decisions, she's confident that the "next move" will present itself — and that she'll know it when she sees it.

"I found out as a lobbyist that I don't get caught up in the details," says Brown.

"Keeping focused on the big picture gives you a lot of hope. Like the question of jobs versus owls [in the Pacific Northwest's timber industry]. That's only part of the picture. As the construction industry is finding alternative building materials to lumber, jobs are created. That might be, in the short term, upsetting for people in tree-cutting jobs, but that's a detail in my mind.

"Can't," she says, "is just a detail."

## *Building better neighborhoods, one by one: Jerry Blakey '81*

**S**T. PAUL — St. Paul City Councilman Jerry Blakey '81 made his first foray into politics as a private citizen, when, in 1991, he helped rally his Summit-University neighborhood to stop the city from closing down a local indoor swimming pool.

"It was one of only a few pools in St. Paul with a wading pool, so it was a good place to bring little kids," Blakey says, explaining the spot's importance as a community gathering place. Since taking office in 1994, he's made it a priority to encourage his constituents to get involved the way he did. "I believe that 'committees

*On the rise: City Councilman Jerry Blakey amidst Victorian homes being rehabbed in St. Paul's Selby-Dale area, a couple of miles from Macalester.*

of one' have the ability to cause real change," he says.

Blakey represents St. Paul's Ward One, comprising the Midway-Hamline, Lexington-Hamline, Summit-University and Frogtown neighborhoods, parts of which have been troubled by drug-related violence. "Three years ago we had a problem with pay phones serving as marketplaces for open-air drug deals. People were upset about it."

Blakey helped enact an ordinance making it possible to have phones that are reported as sources of trouble removed. "Members of the community were able to identify the problem, and set standards they wanted to live with," he adds, noting that the ordinance's effectiveness depends on individuals' willingness to report problems.

"The most important thing I've done is let people know that they have access to the same things that I have always taken for granted — they have the right, and the responsibility, to call on the police or their city councilman for help," explains Blakey, now running for re-election. He counts a huge reduction in Frogtown crack houses, a job training program, and business development at the key intersection of Selby Avenue and Dale Street — where two corners have been vacant for 20 years — among his first-term accomplishments.

Blakey grew up on a farm in Lindstrom, a small town 45 miles northeast of St. Paul, where "the big things were the Dairy Queen and the bowling alley," he remembers with a laugh. Being a member of the only African American family in town was not a major issue in his youth. "I was homecoming king my senior year," he notes.

At Macalester, he gained a broader perspective on issues of race, and Mahmoud El-Kati's course on the history of black civilization increased his own sense of self-esteem. "I learned that we were descended from great people. It made me realize I had a lot to give."

Blakey has lived in the neighborhood he now represents since shortly after graduating from Macalester; he and his wife, Jacqueline Alexander Blakey '81, have a 3-year-old daughter, Akilah Kamaria. Before his election he worked in quality control for Deluxe Corp. and was active in the Hague Avenue Block Association, the Summit-University Planning Council, the Inner City Youth League and Camphor United Methodist Church. He hopes to serve a "couple more terms" on the City Council, and says any thoughts of going further in politics depend on how that would affect his family.

For now, his political priorities focus on decreasing gun violence and improving education, particularly for children of color.

"I've got a strong positive belief in people," Blakey says. "Things have improved for people of

'I learned that we were descended from great people. It made me realize I had a lot to give.'

— Jerry Blakey '81

GREG HELGESON



color since my parents' time, and my grandparents' time. As long as reasonable people are able to talk about sticky issues, things will get better. This is what I want for my daughter."

## Montana and the meaning of life: Jessica Page Stickney '51 and Edwin L. Stickney '50

**M**ILES CITY, MONT.— During the 36 years they've lived in this Montana town of 10,000, Edwin L. Stickney '50 and Jessica Page Stickney '51 have helped build their community in so many ways it's hard to count them.



Jessica and Ed Stickney at home in Miles City, Mont.

There's one compelling problem that they both address, although from different angles: child abuse.

"We call them \$20 million kids, because that's what they'll cost society if we can't help them," Ed says of the severely abused children for whom the Intermountain Children's Home, a residential treatment center on whose board he serves, may be the last chance.

Meanwhile, as president of the Montana

'Ted Mitau convinced us that it was important to get active politically.'

— Jessica Page Stickney '51

Council For Families, Jessica works at the state legislative level to raise awareness of child abuse and increase funding for prevention programs. "The whole idea is that you can identify parents who are at risk of being abusive when their child is born," she says. "You can help them develop parenting skills, and let them know what to expect."

One of the pillars of the Stickneys' lives has been their church, Highland Park Congregational-United Church of Christ. Their pastors, Marilyn Urban Thaden '70 and Robert Thaden '70, are also Mac grads. Ed has been the organist there for 25 years, has served on the board and directed the choir; both Stickneys have taught Sunday school.

"Our support has been unwavering and consistent," notes Ed, a minister's son and grandson. "We've always tithed or more than tithed. We consider the church one of the most important foundations of society."

The Stickneys, who have three grown children of their own, have worked hard at building, within their community, values and policies they believe in.

Ed, a family practice physician, has served on boards of directors for educational, medical and church organizations, while Jess, a professional volunteer, was on the Montana State Arts Council Board, the school board and various local and state educational commissions, before being elected a state representative in 1989. "Ted Mitau convinced us that it was important to get active politically," she says fondly of the legendary Macalester professor.

"For Jess and me, the meaning of life has been what we can contribute," Ed says.

## Family values in the inner city: John Koppitch '73 and Judy Woods '73

**I**NDIANAPOLIS, IND.— By any definition, John Koppitch '73 has spent most of his professional life in grassroots community activism, as pastor of an inner-city Presbyterian church in Indianapolis.

What's less obvious, at first glance, is how he and his wife, Judy Woods '73, try to make all their personal and professional decisions reflect and promote their deeply held values.

John Koppitch was called to the ministry — and to minister to the needy — while still in high school. "I went to a church conference in 1967 and got fired up about how Christians should make a difference in the world," he explains. With a divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary, he became pastor of Washington Street Presbyterian Church in 1980, the first full-time pastor the tiny church had had in a dozen years. He brought with him the governing presbytery's financial support and the enthusiasm to start a food shelf and clothing bank, offer classes in English as a second language for the neighborhood's Southeast Asian, Middle Eastern and Hispanic population, and build a chess club and soccer league.

Koppitch also worked diligently to improve the housing in the community as a founding board member of the Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership, an organization that served as an intermediary between banks and foundations, on the one hand, and development corporations on the other. Suddenly, in the late '80s, 15 years after he graduated, Macalester courses he had taken in urban geography, anthropology, sociology and psychology became immediately relevant.





*John Koppitch '73 and Judy Woods '73 live in a restored Victorian home in inner-city Indianapolis in order to expose their children, Meredith and Matthew, to ethnic and economic diversity.*

In 1995, Koppitch was asked to become pastor at Fairview Presbyterian Church, in a more affluent area of Indianapolis. "It's a 300-member church with a history of supporting mission work. For me, this is a new arena for sharing God's love and justice with the impoverished of the world." There, he's using his management and community organization skills to decentralize authority within the congregation while at the same time developing a strategic planning process to better focus the church's use of its ample resources.

It is Judy Woods' salary — she's a partner in a business litigation firm — that provides most of the family's income and has allowed them to live well while John ministers to the community. She has also spoken and written for the legal community on the importance of a moral approach to the legal process.

Juggling the roles of pastor's wife and high-powered professional, Woods, too, was active with Washington Street Presbyterian Church, and is proud of the children's summer drama program she helped create. "We took kids with no self-confidence and no support at home, and got them to show up on time, and ultimately perform in front of an audience." Woods also worked with the United Way of Central Indiana for seven years.

While Woods may not be, in her own words, active "on the front lines" the way her husband is, the choices they make, day in and day out, as a family are an essential facet of their activism. They live in a restored Victorian home in a historic, transitional neighborhood in the inner city, in order to expose their children, Matthew and Meredith, to

ethnic and economic diversity. "We have low-income, Section 8 housing next door to homes that go for hundreds of thousands of dollars," Judy says. "Our house was broken into last year, and we've had to educate our kids about prostitution and drug deals at an earlier age than we'd have liked to, because they see these things. But at the same time, they aren't intimidated by seeing a black person."

One of the difficult choices was sending Matthew, now 14, to a private school for junior high. "He started out in public school, which was scary for us, because Indianapolis schools have a bad reputation for drugs and violence," Woods notes. They found a Montessori magnet school, where Matthew thrived until he finished fifth grade; 11-year-old Meredith is still there. Matthew then went to a public magnet middle school, but was very unhappy; after much soul-searching his parents enrolled him in a private Episcopal middle school, where, says Woods, "there's more diversity than if we had moved to the suburbs and put him in public school there."

Judy herself grew up in what she calls a traditional, middle-class, white, Midwestern, suburban family. Macalester had a profound impact on her. "That was the first time I was exposed to real diversity. At times it was very uncomfortable, but Macalester gave me the tools and sense of self-confidence to pass along these values to other people. Part of what I see myself trying to do now is show people" — like her children and colleagues —

*'Macalester gave me the tools and sense of self-confidence to pass along these values to other people.'*

*— Judy Woods '73*



"that there are a variety of ways to deal with society's demands."

Describing the family's activist lifestyle, Woods says: "We're just continually balancing, and making choices based on priorities we've thought through."

## Legacy of two lives: Gwen Helgeson Huntress '68 and David Huntress '68

**H**ARDWICK, MASS.—A year after the death of Gwen Helgeson Huntress '68, people in this central Massachusetts hamlet of 2,600 still keenly feel the impact of her life.

"It's amazing," says Michelle Webb, her best friend in Hardwick. "I don't think a day has gone by since

Gwen passed away that someone hasn't come up to me and said, 'She touched my life, she made such an enormous difference.'"

Gwen and David Huntress '68 met and fell in love during their freshman year at Macalester. Soon after their graduation (David had transferred to the University of Wisconsin after his sophomore year), they moved to Hardwick, where Gwen had landed a teaching job.

They bought and

renovated a 1735 saltbox, raised three children, lived full lives together and along the way earned the admiration of their friends and neighbors. "They had a tremendously strong faith and they were absolutely committed to helping others through their own lives," says Kathy Burns Rosen '68, a Macalester classmate and close friend of Gwen's since their childhoods together in Mankato, Minn.

David started his own landscaping business. He was active in town planning and environmental issues and in their church. Gwen, an outstanding teacher, began her career as a learning disability specialist. She became involved in a number of educational programs, from a pre-school cooperative to

helping high school students at risk to tutoring students in her home. A volunteer in the community and schools, she was the driving force behind the creation of a community playground. She served as moderator of their church, taught Sunday school and helped form the Bell Choir.

"She was always extending herself to newcomers or anyone who needed a helping hand," recalls Webb, who was invited to the Huntresses' home when she moved to Hardwick 22 years ago. "She was the kind of person who, if she heard someone was sick, would cook them a meal and deliver it to their door. Or if she knew somebody needed to have their spirits lifted, she would pick them up and take them for a ride in her car. People adored her."

The bright, wholesome, former Girls Stater, who regarded Macalester Professor Mary Gwen Owen as one of her mentors, also enjoyed strutting the stage as Dolly Parton at the school talent show and dressing up in a clown suit for a student's birthday party. Devoted to Macalester, she served as a Macalester admissions volunteer and a member of her class reunion gift committee.

In 1988, David Huntress died of pancreatic cancer, just weeks after the diagnosis. Left with their three children, Gwen "took that family and pulled it together. She needed to work and she wanted to work. . . . She was a tremendously inspiring person," says Rosen. In 1991, Gwen Huntress learned that she, too, had cancer, of the small bowel. Enduring surgery and chemotherapy, she lived longer than her doctors expected. "We were all in awe of her courage and strength," Webb recalls. "She never let any of us pity her."

— a friend of Gwen  
Helgeson Huntress

Rosen, who lives in Florida, visited her friend in Hardwick for the last time in July 1996. "I think Gwen's dying was something that held tremendous power for that community," she says. "I spent the day with her and different friends came by. It became clear that this entire community was pouring out their hearts to this family. I think that enabled Gwen to survive as long as she did."

Gwen Huntress died Sept. 22, 1996. She was 49. Her friends agree that the greatest gift of Gwen and David Huntress is their children: Jack, now in a master's degree program at Boston College; Gayellen, a junior at Hartwick College; and Carmody, a high school junior. "All of the children were instilled with their parents' ethical, spiritual and intellectual values," Rosen says. "They are a marvelous legacy."

— Jon Halvorsen



The late Gwen Helgeson Huntress '68, shown here with a nephew. In 1993, for her 25th reunion, she wrote of "the wonderful things I found at Macalester." Among them: "a desire to make God's world a better place, readiness for a satisfying career and life in an ever-changing world, and of course, FUN!"





# A Gathering Of Friends

*Reunion Weekend and Commencement  
May 15–17, 1998:*



MACALESTER  
alumni and students

have a new tradition going. They combined Reunion and Commencement into a single, college-wide celebration.

The tradition continues Friday through Sunday, May 15–17, 1998.

## *Reunion*

ALUMNI WILL ENJOY traditional Reunion activities — class parties, alumni college programs and more — as well as activities bringing alumni and students together.

## *Commencement*

COMMENCEMENT WILL TAKE PLACE at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, May 17, on the lawn in front of Old Main. Special festivities follow to welcome Macalester's newest alumni into the fold.

## *Reunion classes*

ALUMNI WHOSE CLASSES end in "3" or "8" will receive information through their classes; others should watch *Macalester Today*.

## *Questions?*

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please call the Alumni Office: (612) 696-6295, or toll-free: 1-888-242-9351 •



*Photos: Some  
scenes from the  
1993 Reunion*



# Interview with the Alumni Association president

## Alan Naylor '57 and the Alumni Board build strong ties with students, too

**G**ROWING UP in Miles City, Mont., Alan Naylor '57 chose to attend Macalester because — well, he acknowledges, mostly because his father suggested it. He never saw the campus until he arrived for his freshman year in the fall of 1953. A business administration major, Naylor counts among his fondest Mac memories: Professors Forrest Young and Robert Dasset; singing second tenor in the college choirs; learning the Brahms Requiem from Professor Ian Morton; taking part in the annual summer "caravan" to Mexico, which turned out to be the first of his many trips to a foreign country.

Naylor went on to a career in banking. In the last five years, he has increasingly given of himself to Macalester, as a member of the Alumni Association's Board of Directors and, since the summer of 1996, as the Alumni Board president. He was interviewed in September during one of his frequent trips to the campus.

**How did you become a member of the Alumni Board?**

"I had always been active in my class reunions. Then one day I got a call from [Alumni Director] Karen McConkey. She asked if I would like to be on the Alumni Board. She described the job and activities and was her usual persuasive best. I said, 'That sounds worthwhile.'

"I've been on the board for five years now. I'll step down in 1998 after my second three-year term, the maximum one can serve. It's proved to be a terrific experience. I'm very impressed with my associates — the 30-plus people who sign up for this board. They're very committed to Macalester; if they say they're going to do something, they do it. It's fun to be affiliated with peo-

### Alan F. Naylor '57

**Residence:**  
Minnetonka, Minn.

**Major at Mac:**  
business administration; minor in Spanish

**Occupation:** senior vice president, Firstar Corp. of Minnesota, St. Paul

**Children:** four, including Robert Naylor '92

**Hobbies:** reading and writing poetry, travel abroad, tennis, theater, music, learning from his children, entertaining his grandson

**Other interests:** active in children's health, former chair of Minneapolis Children's Medical Center, and now vice chair of Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare in St. Paul •



ple who have ideas and follow through."

**What do you see as the principal accomplishments of the Alumni Board during your five years as a member?**

"The Alumni Association has always had a desire to connect with alumni. Our mission is to 'involve our alumni in a lifelong relationship with Macalester.'

"But the interesting thing is how much time we've spent building closer ties to students. During the last five years, we have asked students to serve on the board as official voting members — five of them. It's worked out wonderfully. We started sponsoring first-year seminar dinners, in

which first-year students have dinner in the homes of alumni during their first semester on campus. The number has grown to 11 dinners this fall.

"In 1993, the board initiated a mentoring program between alumni and students that's been very successful. It began with eight alumni and eight seniors. We now have 30 alumni in the Twin Cities area

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**'An alumnus told me, "My Macalester degree got in the way of my career." I asked why, and he responded, "Because it reminded me I had, and taught me to listen to, my conscience."'**

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who serve as mentors to 30 students during the academic year.

"We've gotten heavily involved in Senior Week for graduating seniors and sponsor several events. So there's been a lot going on between students and us, and I think that's a good long-term investment. The Alumni Board also played a major role in bringing Commencement and Reunion together. My 40th reunion was last May, and the whole weekend experience was phenomenal.

"We've also started a travel program for alumni, to build another Mac connection and opportunity. The first trip was in 1995 to Japan. Other groups of alumni went to



Alan Naylor and his wife, Dena, share a laugh with his classmates at his 40th reunion this past May.



Scotland and England this past June, and to Ashland, Oregon, for the Shakespeare Festival there this past August. This January, alumni will have the chance to go to Australia, and next August to Alaska.

"Lastly, this coming year, in addition to the Distinguished Citizen and Alumni Service awards we give to alumni, we're going to present our first Young Alumni Award. That will go to someone who graduated within the past 10 years.

"All of these changes happened to occur during my term on the board. They began when Jane [Else] Smith '67 of St. Paul] was president of the Alumni Board and continued when Peter Fenn '70 of Washington, D.C.] served as president. I've been impressed with all the new and different approaches the Alumni Board has tried to bring people closer to the college, and to each other."

A lot has changed since you graduated from Macalester 40 years ago. What remains the same?

"The quality of education. Mac had excellent professors when I was here, Mac has excellent professors now. They may teach a broader range of subjects now. But the fundamental values are the same. Macalester continues to want people to have a well-rounded perspective on the world they're going to enter. The college wants students to be prepared to be flexible. I've changed jobs in my life, though not my career. But part of the gain at Macalester, and the liberal arts approach, is that you can adapt, and I think the world requires more adaptation than it ever has."

What kinds of comments do you hear about Macalester from other alumni?

"I was making phone calls for the Annual Fund a few years ago and I reached an alumnus in the East who had always contributed to the college. He was in a mood to chat. But after a while he kind of threw me a hook. He said, 'I want you to know that my Macalester degree got in the way of my career.' I asked him why, and he responded, 'Because it reminded me I had, and taught me to listen to, my conscience.'

"I sensed, and hoped, that he was light-hearted about this comment. Nonetheless, I thought it was about as fine a compliment as Macalester can get from any graduate. It may be our best core value." ●

## Cruise through Alaska's 'Inside Passage' with Macalester Professor Jerry Webers

MACALESTER geology Professor Jerry Webers will lead an alumni trip to Alaska next year.

The Aug. 8-15, 1998, cruise on the Yorktown Clipper will go through the hidden fjords and glaciers of Alaska's "Inside Passage," offering a close-up look at America's last frontier.

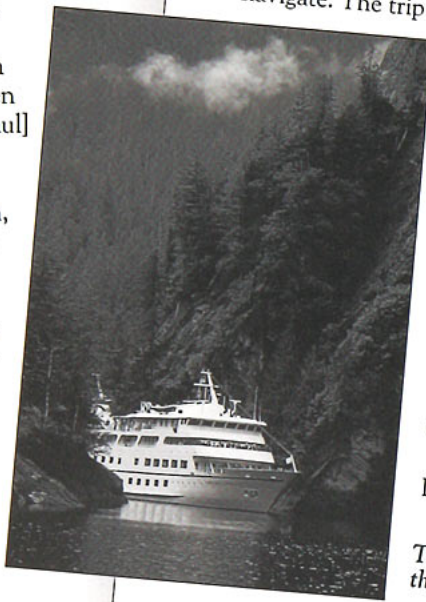
The 138-passenger Yorktown Clipper goes to wilderness areas where no large ship can navigate. The trip begins in Ketchikan, Alaska, and concludes in Juneau. This part of southeastern Alaska has bald eagles, pods of humpback whales, vast glaciers, and hidden fjords where puffins and kittiwakes nest in the rocky walls.

The cities visited reflect the old gold-rush fever of the Klondike as well as the skill and craftsmanship of Native Americans who have lived in Alaska for centuries.

In addition to Webers, experienced naturalists will be on board to answer questions and share their knowledge of the area.

"It should be a really exciting trip," says Webers, who is familiar with fjords and glaciers from his dozen trips to Antarctica. "Alaska is one of the unique places in the world in terms of geology, glaciers and tectonics."

For more information on the trip, call Associate Alumni Director Jen Patti '91 at (612) 696-6026 or 1-888-242-9351. ●



The Yorktown Clipper will take alumni through Alaska's "Inside Passage" Aug. 8-15.

## Alumni Board adds 13 new members

THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION'S Board of Directors has added 13 new members in recent months.

The 33-member Alumni Board, representing every age group and every region of the country, serves as advocates for Macalester.

Board members, who may serve for up to six years, also offer their own ideas about how to improve and strengthen Macalester as well as the college's ties to alumni.

The new members are:

- Louisa E. Chapman '75 of Atlanta. Currently serving as an alumni admissions volunteer and alumni club leader, she is a medical epidemiologist for the national Centers for Disease Control.

- Michael Hecht '93 of St. Paul. Housing programs manager of North End Area Revitalization, he has been involved in alumni event planning. He is married to Jennifer Stewart Hecht '91.

- David Hodge '70 of Bothell, Wash. Currently serving as an alumni admissions volunteer and on the Career Network

Resource program, Hodge is also a member of M Club. He is a professor of geography at the University of Washington in Seattle. He is married to Valerie Leach Hodge '76.

- Phyllis Bambusch Jones '44 of St. Paul Park, Minn. A retired District Court judge with the Minnesota Court of Appeals, she has attended several reunions at Macalester and various Twin Cities and Great Scots events.

- Earle F. Kyle IV '87 of St. Paul. A lawyer in the Minneapolis firm of Lockridge, Grindal, Nauen and Holstein, he has participated in the college's lecture series for alumni of color.

- Thomas Moberg '86 of St. Paul. A telecommunications coordinator at the Minnesota Institute of Public Health, Moberg has attended Macalester reunions and Twin Cities alumni events.

- Carla A. Morris '85 of Washington, D.C. President of her own consulting firm, CM Consulting, Morris serves as an alumni admissions volunteer and is a member of the Career Network Resource



program. She is married to Mark Lindsay '85, a Macalester trustee.

- Carrie L. Norbin '94 of Cambridge, Mass. Currently attending Harvard Law School, she serves as an alumni admissions volunteer and is involved in planning alumni events for recent grads in the Boston area.

- Niloy Ray '97 of Lagos, Nigeria, a student member of the Alumni Board. He is majoring in economics and math.

- John W. Ring '51 of St. Paul. A retired high school chemistry teacher who is now an educational consultant, Ring serves as an Annual Fund volunteer and has been active on behalf of Macalester for many years. He is married to Loretta Yourd Ring '63.

- Aaron Schlaphoff '98 of Sherburn, Minn., a student member. He is majoring in mathematics.

- Dale Turnham '58 of Eagan, Minn. A retired insurance account executive, he is co-chair of his 40th reunion committee and a past co-chair of the college's Annual Fund.

- Marie Zemler '98 of Sauk Centre, Minn., a student member. She is majoring in communication studies and psychology.

## Calendar of alumni events

**H**ERE ARE SOME of the events scheduled for alumni, parents, family and friends. More events are being added all the time. For more information on any of the following, call the Alumni Office, (612) 696-6295, except where noted. The toll-free number is 1-888-242-9351. You may also call the campus events line, (612) 696-6900.

*Please note:* The Fall 1997 Arts & Events Calendar was mailed to all Twin Cities area alumni in August. It lists music, dance, theater, visual arts events and lectures on campus. If you would like a copy, please call the Alumni Office: 696-6295.

Nov. 19: Happy hour for recent grads in Washington, D.C., 6–8 p.m., Buffalo Billiards, 13310 19th St. NW, Dupont Circle Metro (questions? call Cara Woodson Welch '89 at 301-587-3125, or e-mail: welches@erols.com)

Nov. 22: Twin Cities alumni event, "The 1940s Radio Hour," theater with pre-



## Committed to the college

More than 125 alumni returned to campus Sept. 12–14 for the fall Leadership Conference. The annual event brings together alumni volunteers for the college from throughout the country. Top: Members of the celebrated Drama Choros reunited for a performance after the dinner in Cochran Lounge.

The evening recognized the role of alumni leaders. Center: Alumni admissions volunteers Helga Ying '87 (San Francisco), left, and Creigh Moffatt '80 (Norwich, Vt.) talk after hearing a report from Dean of Admissions Bill Shain. Bottom: Kathleen Osborne Vellenga '59 (St. Paul), a member of the Alumni Board, asks a question during a session with President McPherson in Weyerhaeuser Chapel.



performance reception at 6:45 p.m., Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center (696-6295)

Dec. 13: Twin Cities alumni event, Sounds of Blackness concert, 8 p.m., Orpheum Theater, Minneapolis, preceded by alumni dinner-reception at 6 p.m. at Rock Bottom Brewery (696-6026)

Dec. 17: Happy hour for recent grads in Washington, D.C., 6–8 p.m., Capitol City Brewing Company, Union Station, 2 Mass. Ave. NW, Union Station Metro (questions?

call Cara Woodson Welch '89 at 301-587-3125, or e-mail: welches@erols.com)

Jan. 6–19, 1998: alumni trip to Australia with Professor Lynda LaBounty; limited space still available; call Associate Alumni Director Jen Patti at (612) 696-6026

Jan. 17: Great Scots event (alumni 55 and older), program TBA, 8:30–11:30 a.m., Weyerhaeuser Hall, (612) 696-6026. ●



## When in Madrid... start a magazine

*Anna Lewis '94 creates her own job with the English-language monthly In Madrid*

by Maia Werner '98

**N**ESTLED DEEP in the heart of downtown Madrid lies a small, one-room office where important decisions concerning the Spanish capital's English-speaking residents are made. This office is not the U.S. or British Embassy but the office of the city's English-language monthly magazine, *In Madrid*. Here, information about the best bars and restaurants in the city, unique and interesting plazas, and the most exciting entertainment options is processed and distributed.

And the woman behind it all is Anna Lewis '94.

Lewis started the magazine in May 1996. After moving to Spain immediately following graduation, the art history major taught English for a year. She became interested in writing for a magazine or newspaper, but found that few options were available. A friend knew of an English publication in Japan, where she had been living. "Between the two of us, it just clicked, the idea to start our own English publication," Lewis recalls.

The goal of the magazine is to provide a bridge between the English- and Spanish-speaking communities in Madrid, and the publication functions mainly as a service guide to its readers, providing them with information about cultural events and entertainment. Although her friend eventually left the magazine, Lewis remained. Now she has big visions for its future. She would like to see the magazine grow both in the number of pages (currently 20-24) and distribution (15,000). She even envisions expanding to cover areas outside the Spanish capital. For the moment, however, her goal is to make the magazine function "seamlessly."

While starting a magazine from scratch may sound like an intimidating job, Lewis was willing to try partly because of the qualities of the location. "There are parallels between Madrid and St. Paul," she said. "I always felt that in St. Paul there was a lot of opportunity to try things and to start things up on a small scale. St. Paul never felt intimidating to me... I think Madrid has that same feeling of intimacy that St. Paul did. It feels like there is room to start things up without being a complete professional."

Still, running the magazine hasn't gone entirely smoothly.



Anna Lewis '94, right, the managing director of *In Madrid* magazine, with her colleagues Ruth Derbyshire, left, and Verity Jane Smart, who are both from England

Starting with no publishing experience, running an office and working in a foreign country are among the challenges that Lewis, the managing director, and her English co-workers, Ruth Derbyshire, the advertising and production director, and Verity Jane Smart, the editor, have had to face.

Lewis' experiences at Macalester have helped her to overcome

these difficulties and even see them as benefits. "Something that I really appreciated about Macalester is that it wasn't a very competitive atmosphere; it was much more cooperative," she said. "Professors stressed group activities and group presentations rather than facing off against everyone and trying to rank higher than other people..."

"I really came to believe while I was at Macalester that anybody could do anything they wanted to if they had the interest and put their mind to it, and I came away feeling like I could, too." •

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**'I really came to believe  
while I was at Macalester that  
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put their mind to it'**

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*Maia Werner '98 is a political science and communication studies major from San Francisco. She spent last spring semester studying abroad in Madrid, where she met and interviewed Anna Lewis '94.*



# Geographer Hildegard Binder Johnson put Mac on the map

by Rebecca Gonzalez-Campoy '83

**Editors' note:** This academic year marks the 50th anniversary of Macalester's Geography Department.

"I CAME OUT OF MACALESTER in 1972 thinking the field of geography was dominated by women," recalls Elizabeth Hobbs, a former geography professor at Macalester and now a consultant with BRW Inc., a Minneapolis engineering and consulting firm. "I was in for a surprise when I got to graduate school."

Hobbs' academic adviser and friend at Macalester, Hildegard Binder Johnson, was among the first generation of great women geographers in the United States.

Hildegard Binder left her native Germany in 1934, the year after Hitler came to power. After teaching at a girls' school in England, she came to the United States in 1935 to

study and then to teach at Mills College in California. The next year she married Palmer O. Johnson, a University of Minnesota professor she had met in London. Because university rules prohibited faculty spouses from teaching at the U, she devoted her time to historical and geographical research. By 1946, she had published

several articles in professional journals about German settlements in the U.S.

In the same year, her parents, finally able to leave war-torn Germany, came to live with the Johnsons. "When my mother learned that in the case of Palmer's death, there would be some insurance, but no 'pension' for his wife, she abandoned her value system and advised me to work," Johnson wrote in her history of the Geography Department. "She and my father would help with house and children."

At the time, no local colleges had geography departments. Johnson considered teaching history or sociology. A

## Hildegard Binder Johnson, 1908–93

**Born:** Aug. 20, 1908, Berlin, Germany

**Education:** universities of Rostock (1928), Marburg (1929) and Innsbruck (1930); doctorate, University of Berlin, (1933)

**Family:** Married Palmer O. Johnson, 1936; children, Gisela (b. 1941) and Karin (b. 1944)

**Macalester Career:** Founded and developed Geography Department, 1947–75

**Died:** Jan. 18, 1993, Minneapolis •



friend who taught at Macalester encouraged her to apply. "The interview with Dr. [Charles] Turck [president of Macalester] dealt with geography almost from

the start," Johnson wrote. "We had a very lively conversation, and Dr. Turck was delighted to hear me say that I did not plan to teach Hauschofer [a prominent Nazi geographer] — I'd rather demolish him."

In the fall of 1947, Johnson began building what was to become the largest department of geography in a liberal arts college. Her conservation field course became legendary. "In 1947, no department at Macalester seemed to include any regularly scheduled field work in its courses," she recalled. "On a modest field trip in [the course] 'Historical Geography' to Sibley House, I found students unable to verbalize observations or to answer simple questions about the age of houses, signs of boundaries between neighbors, or

how to identify planted and naturally grown groups of trees."

The conservation field course got students out of the classroom and into a "laboratory" of fields and valleys in southeastern Minnesota. "When I started climbing up the bluff, using one of the gullies filled with rolling stones for a path, I heard one of the students say behind me, 'I wish she had not had all that phy ed in Germany.'" Field trips eventually became the norm for her courses.

Over the years, the Macalester Geography Department grew, offering a wider variety of classes to more students. Through it all, Johnson remained steadfast in her commitment to high academic standards, research and publishing, geographic education, pacifism — and her students. "She was a good role model," says Hobbs. "Few women were on the faculty, and not very many women had such strong personalities. She was very active in the anti-Vietnam War movement. Not many of us

knew professors who shared our political views."

An early environmentalist, Johnson promoted understanding of the land and the need for preservation of natural resources. She earned numerous awards for her work, from the Association of American Geographers, the Izaak Walton League and other groups. Upon her retirement in 1975, Macalester gave her an honorary doctorate.

"I paid a price for my independence, aside from being a loner without much chance of watching how things got done," she wrote in the department history. "I made many mistakes. . . I never had a superior or a colleague to warn me — I was a free spirit." •

*Rebecca Gonzalez-Campoy '83, a writer who lives in Shoreview, Minn., is writing a series of profiles of notable figures in Macalester's history. She previously wrote about Borghild Sundheim, Charles Turck, Mary Gwen Owen, Margaret Doty, and J. Huntley Dupre and Virginia Dupre.*



# Identity and mirrors: Reflections of a Latin Americanist

by Galo F. González

*Editor's note: Galo F. González was a participant in the second Macalester Faculty Development International Seminar, held in June in Brazil. This article is adapted from the conclusion of his essay about the seminar.*

**M**Y VISIT to Brazil has impacted me on three fronts: personally, as a scholar and pedagogically.

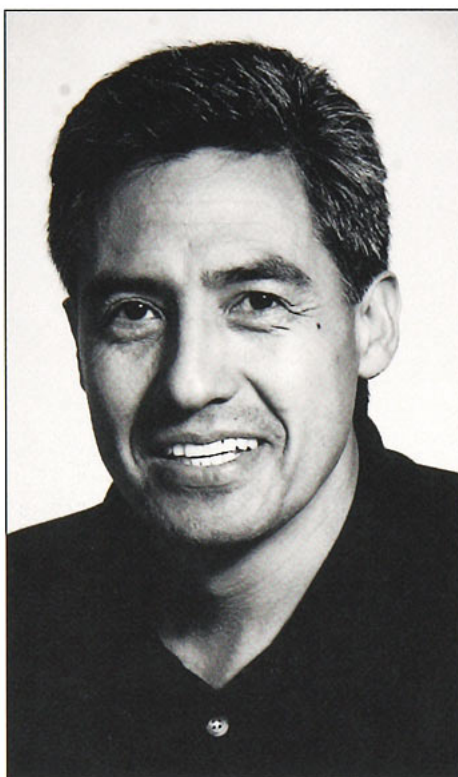
At the personal level, it has made me reflect upon my own search for identity. Having been born into hybrid societies, Brazilians, like the rest of Latin Americans, struggle with the notion of who they are. In the U.S.A. we struggle with the same question, for immigrants, with the added question of where we belong. In a way we are forced to see ourselves in

This experience has made me a more complete Latin Americanist.

I have crossed the boundaries of regionalism that rooted me as an Ecuadorean dealing with another nation of South America.

divided mirrors; each mirror gives us a different angle, a different face. Our responsibility is to consolidate the image reflected in the mirrors. One way of doing this is through teaching others to look more critically at their own realities and existences, and then to look at other peoples and cultures.

My visit and participation in the Faculty Seminar has awakened more enthusiasm



Galo F. González

for expanding my knowledge of Brazilian literature. Because of the restricted knowledge of Portuguese used in my interactions with scholars and common folk in Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Bahia, I felt that I was missing important details about the host nation. Nevertheless, this experience has made me a more complete Latin Americanist. I have crossed the boundaries of regionalism that rooted me as an Ecuadorean dealing with another nation of South America.

Another asset gained from my visit to Brazil is the immediate application to teaching and to my ongoing research projects. I envision incorporating the research I began in Brazil into my courses. The First-Year Seminar, for example, will benefit from studying Parente Cunhas' and Clarice Lispector's novels.

I also would like to integrate my initial findings in a more global context if not in a comparative study of women's literary production from the various regions of Latin

America. The preoccupations that move Brazilian writers are the same as the ones found in Ecuadorean women writers Alicia Yáñez Cossío and Natasha Salguero, Mexican women writers Rosario Castellanos, Carmen Boullosa and Angela Mastreta, to cite a few.

These novelists and their works are "mirrors" for women across the Americas;

## Macalester Faculty Development International Seminar

Theme: "Culture, Landscape and Globalization: Views from Brazil"

Time: June 1-21, 1997

Places: cities of Campinas, Sao Paulo and Salvador, with faculty pursuing independent research projects in various parts of Brazil as well as Argentina

Macalester participants: Richard Ammons, College Advancement; John Craddock, Geology; Antonio Dorca, Spanish; Peter Ferderer, Economics; Sherry Gray, International Studies, seminar organizer; Leland Guyer, Spanish; Galo González, Spanish; Teresita Martínez-Vergne, History; Michael Monahan, International Center; Robert L. Morris, Music; Anthony Pinn, Religious Studies; Wayne Roberts, provost; Sonita Sarker, Women's & Gender Studies; Ahmed Samatar, International Studies; Gerald Webers, Geology

Commissioned essays and individual projects appear in volume 5 of *Macalester International*, to be published this winter. To order a copy, please call International Studies and Programming at (612) 696-6332. •

a multiplicity of mirrors that reflect the enormous variety of cultures and societies and the struggle to redefine oneself within those constraints. These are mirrors to which we can all look for a reflection of our existence today. •

Galo F. González, associate professor and chair of Macalester's Spanish Department, was born in Ecuador. A Macalester faculty member since 1986, he earned his Ph.D. in Hispanic literatures from the University of California at Berkeley. He concentrates his research on 20th century Latin American novelists. His areas of special interest include the study of film and fiction, literature of the Andean region and feminist theory.



Macalester faculty and staff in Brazil





## Green with envy

Students take advantage of a warm day in late September to move a class outdoors to the lawn near the DeWitt Wallace Library.

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